

THE TIMES

Government warned as unemployment continues to grow

yment in Britain reached a peak in January and Murray, general secretary of UC, warned the Government yesterday that an explicit reduction must be part

of any new deal on pay restraint. The seasonally adjusted figure was 1,291,900, or 5.6 per cent. for Britain, and the overall total for the UK was 1,448,193, or 6.1 per cent.

£1,000-a-month rise in jobless

placed. Although the average monthly increase of 13,000 is well below the pace experienced during the worst of the recession of 1975, when unemployment was going up at a rate of about 40,000 a month, it is still indicative of an economy in deep trouble.

The short-lived recovery in the spring of 1976 was followed by stagnation in the latest period for which figures are available, and as unemployment lags at least six to nine months behind the pattern of increasing unemployment in the first part of this year was set before the December measures.

Thus, apart from wobbles on month-to-month basis, it seems likely that the upward trend will be continued for Britain as a whole.

Within the overall figure, however, the January figures provide one piece of good news and another example of bad news, both involving Scotland. The good news concerns school-leavers, whose unemployment total for the United Kingdom as a whole was almost unchanged at 50,815. But within that total something like 7,500 new leavers came on to the register in Scotland, which implies that roughly the same number somewhere must have got jobs.

The bad news was that in the three months from October total unemployment in Scotland rose much faster than anywhere else, going up by 0.5 per cent to 7.4 per cent of the workforce.

Parliamentary report, page 8

Murray puts target for more jobs as part of pay deal

the Prime Minister to discuss the matter.

"It is deplorable that in a society where we are supposed to be moving forward towards a planned economy we cannot even plan for full employment," he said. "I think if the Government to pay more attention to the proposals that have been made by the TUC to reduce unemployment."

Mr Ian Milne, general secretary of the Scottish TUC, said the figures could only be described as disastrous. Unless they were improved there would be an intolerable strain on the social contract.

"The Government must give priority to the task of revitalizing the economy," he added. "It has been paying far too little attention to dealing with the level of unemployment."

Mr George Wright, general secretary of the Wales TUC, called for a measure of refla-

tion to stimulate the economy and criticized the Government's decision to remove the regional employment premium, saying the decision was a contributory factor in unemployment.

Mr David Basnett, general secretary of the General and Municipal Workers' Union, said there was an urgent need to implement the measures the TUC had been arguing for to reduce unemployment.

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Ministers hint at general nationalization Bills

ancy in the Bill could make it hybrid.

Mr Gamon said that if the Bill was found to be hybrid in the next Bill of this sort would follow the same pattern.

He estimated that such Bills would revert to the style of the Ports Bill, 1957 (in which only public authorities were concerned and so there had been no need to specify particular companies).

Under such a system, he added, the Bill would not list companies to be nationalized but would simply define a class of companies to be taken over: "This would cause great uncertainty." People would not know whether they were affected and there might be speculation in shares.

He told the examiners that they might feel it was expedient

that future Bills should follow the present pattern and specify clearly which companies were included.

Earlier in the day Mr Gamon had maintained, as his central argument, he believed, impregnable argument, that the practice of Parliament was that a nationalization Bill of wide scope could not be hybrid. He suggested that it did not matter whether that was founded on the argument of public policy or of expediency.

He was challenged by Mr T. G. Talbot, QC, one of the examiners, who pointed out that in the past session Mr Thomas, the Speaker, had apparently taken a different view, since he had proposed then to refer the Bill to the examiners.

At the end of yesterday's

hearing government officials emphasized that no decision had been taken about the future pattern for nationalization Bills.

After Mr Gamon had finished his submissions the memorialist who was seeking to prove the Bill is hybrid began to put their case. Mr Joseph Durkin, parliamentary agent for Vosper Thornycroft, argued that if the company was nationalized it would stand to lose between £10m and £12m.

The compensation planned was not adequate. In the past compensation offered under nationalization plans had been very good. He believed that it was because some people felt they were being treated harshly on this occasion that they were looking into the question of hybridity.

Officials at Mr Hattersley's department said government

Unions in Spain call strike in protest at rightist violence

From Harry Debelius
Madrid, Jan 25

Stunned by the worst outbreak of violence since General Franco's death, many Spanish political leaders were slow to realize today that the possibility that the Government will grant a total amnesty is now more remote than before.

The spate of lethal attacks by right-wing terrorists suggests that the situation might become even more unstable if left-wing activists are turned loose on the streets, as most opposition parties are demanding.

But there is another complication: any amnesty decree from now on—unless it is backdated—would have to include not only those who fought against Franco and his system, but also the murderers of students and lawyers in extreme right-wing assaults in Madrid in the past three days.

It would be very hard for the Government to make a distinction between extremists according to political affiliation, if it should decide to hold off the mounting pressure for total amnesty for everyone.

However, more immediate matters occupied King Juan Carlos and Senior Adolfo Suárez, the Prime Minister, today. Both of them spent much of the day closeted with the nation's senior military leaders. Senior Suárez conferred with the three armed services ministers, the Interior Minister, and the military and civilian deputy prime ministers. The King received 19 high-ranking officers at the Zarzuela Palace on the outskirts of Madrid.

Leading article, page 15

Government beaten for seventh time

The Government was defeated for the seventh time during the standing committee of the Social Security (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, on its amendment that would have made certain students ineligible for benefit during the short vacations.

Features, pages 7 and 14

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Arts, page 9

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Obituary, page 16

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Paris: M Barre, the French Prime Minister, starts a provincial tour to see how his economic policies are working

India: The second 20-page part of this Special Report reviews export potential

policy was still to let the industry end the dispute. Mr Hattersley wanted simply to provide a forum "where all parties involved will have a chance to get together."

It will be the first time that leading national officials of the United Road Transport Union have met him.

The union said on Monday that grocers who tried to sell large wrapped loaves yesterday for less than 79p would be refused supplies. But the Salmonbury group said that about three-quarters of its 204 shops had received supplies.

Key markers which sells bread at 71p, said 82 of its 92 supermarkets had received full supplies.

Sport, pages 10 and 11

Football: On worker directors in industry, from Mr Astley Whittle, and others; on creating money, from Mr Peter Hordern, MP, and others; and on Civil Service dismissals, from Mr Peter Baker

Leaders: Incomes policy; Spain: The GLC

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Refutation setback

The Times apologizes to some of our readers in Europe who were unable to obtain a copy of the paper yesterday. Loss of production was caused by continuing unofficial action by the Sogat publishing staff

Business News, pages 12-13

Stock markets: New MLR hopes helped equities to recover early losses and the FT Index closed just 0.1 off at 377.7

Financial Editor: New folder for pension funds; Base rates; IMF gold auction today

Business features: Edward Townes in an second article of a series of occasional articles on important sectors of UK manufacturing, examines the drop forgings industry; John Brennan reports on motor insurers as reluctant tax collectors

Business Diary: All that matters these days is strength, says former CBI president

Censorship eased

The Lebanese authorities lifted pre-censorship on foreign news organizations operating in the country. This was regarded as a sign of growing confidence in the present truce. It came just three weeks after the introduction of stringent censorship regulations. Pre-censorship will continue for the Lebanese domestic press

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HOME NEWS

Government defeated on cut in vacation benefits for students

By Pat Healy
Social Services Correspondent

The Government was defeated yesterday for the seventh time during the standing committee on the Social Security (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill.

That defeat leaves the practice of dealing with student claims for supplementary benefits in a legal limbo, and the combined defeats have reduced by a quarter the expected net savings from the Bill of £50m.

Voting on a government amendment to legalize the practice of refusing non-householder students supplementary benefits during the Christmas and Easter vacations was tied in committee yesterday. The chairman, Mr Bonner Fink, Conservative MP for Portsmouth, South, used his casting vote to maintain the status quo and defeat that amendment.

The Government introduced the amendment after bowing to widespread opposition to its original intention to prevent all students claiming supplementary benefits during the two short vacations, with a hardship scheme run by the Department of Education and Science to help non-householder students, those with dependents and disabled students.

The defeat leaves open to challenge the practice of refusing non-householder students supplementary benefit on the basis that their grants contain a vacation element of £11.35 a week, the same as they would receive in benefit. An appeal is pending to test the right of the Supplementary Benefits Commission to assume that students receive the grant in cases where parents do not pay their contribution.

Mr Keith Hampshire, vice-

chairman of the Conservative Party education committee, estimated yesterday that if the appeal is won and more students claim benefit as a result, supplementary benefit would amount to an extra £5m in the short vacations. But supplementary benefit appeal tribunals do not set precedents, and the Government is confident that it will avoid that extra cost.

The amendment will be reintroduced on report stage when the Conservatives are likely to oppose it unless ministers make clear that a comprehensive scheme of student support has been prepared.

The loss of the original proposal to stop all students claiming benefit during the short vacations means that the Government has failed to save £1m on social security. That saving would have been matched, however, by a corresponding increase in education grants. The Government still hopes to save at least another £5m by introducing regulations later this year to prevent students from claiming unemployment benefit.

The Government is optimistic that it will carry the rest of the Bill through the Commons. It has lost the proposed saving of £14m a year net through its defeat on the plan to restrict unemployment benefit for early retirees with substantial occupational pensions, and does not intend to reintroduce the measure.

But it has carried through committee of the *Ilford Recorder*, for a temporary order granted last week to be continued was unnecessary.

Order ended: An order preventing a newspaper photographer from being dismissed as a result of a closed-shop agreement was ended in the High Court yesterday.

An application by Mr Rodney Southwood, chief photographer of the *Ilford Recorder*, for a temporary order granted last week to be continued was unnecessary.

Mr Southwood, a member of the Institute of Journalists, has been told by his employer, South Essex Recorders Ltd, that he will be dismissed unless he rejoins the rival NUJ.

Breaking of strike by news agency condemned

Members of the National Union of Journalists employed by the Press Association protested yesterday against the use of the agency's service at a meeting of the Parliamentary Labour Party yesterday, although he said the Government had not decided finally.

Backbenchers at the poorly attended meeting (the maximum number of MPs present was 25) put forward various suggestions, ranging from a single-question referendum to one including three questions: on the Bill, independence, and the status quo.

The management's refusal to allow PA material to be marked "not for the *Northamptonshire Evening Telegraph*" meant that the agency's service (office branch) was "in the invidious and unconstitutional role of helping to break the strike".

Mr David Chipp, the Press Association's editor-in-chief, said the request to mark copy in that way was unacceptable because "it would destroy the independence, impartiality and integrity of the PA, which rests on resisting outside pressure or instructions from whatever source in regard to the content and routing of its service".

Mr Ronald Hunt, editor of the *Northamptonshire Evening Telegraph*, has been asked to appear before an NUJ committee to explain why he has been bringing out the newspaper single-handed since the strike.

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By Our Political Staff

Ministerial thoughts on a referendum on devolution are directed towards a single question asking whether people in Scotland and Wales approve the Bill's proposals.

Mr Foot, Leader of the Commons, and the Cabinet minister responsible for devolution, appeared to indicate that at a meeting of the Parliamentary Labour Party yesterday, although he said the Government had not decided finally.

Backbenchers at the poorly attended meeting (the maximum number of MPs present was 25) put forward various suggestions, ranging from a single-question referendum to one including three questions: on the Bill, independence, and the status quo.

Under a new clause tabled by Conservative opponents to the

Ministers thinking of one-question referendum.

Mr Foot seemed to rule out a referendum question on independence because, he said, the Government and backbenchers were totally against the breaking up of the United Kingdom and a vote on independence, rather than the matter of devolution, would then dominate the issue.

The referendum count, if the Bill goes through, will be county by county in Wales and regionally in Scotland. Mr Foot said there would be no vote in England because that might make the referendum even more divisive. The central question, he said, was whether the Scottish and Welsh people were in favour of the Bill.

On the referendum, the same group proposes that Scottish

and Welsh electorates should be asked in their referendum whether they wished to "cease to be part of the United Kingdom". In all other parts of the United Kingdom the question should be asked: "Are the provisions of this Act for Scotland and Wales acceptable to you?"

The clause proposes 528 seats out of 635 at Westminster for England, 59 for Scotland (instead of 71), 32 for Wales (36), and 16 for Northern Ireland (12).

Another Conservative new clause managers turn to thoughts of a guillotine on a Bill that looks like blocking parliamentary business until after the Easter recess. A total of 558 amendments... and 30 new clauses have been tabled. Among the signatories are Mr Maurice Macmillan, Mr Julian Amery, and Miss Harriet Andersson.

On the referendum, the same group proposes that Scottish

DPP stops police from hand back drug links

By Stewart Tindall
Home Affairs Reporter

The Director of Public Prosecutions intervened yesterday to stop the police handing a small quantity of cannabis to an American against whom a charge of possessing it had been dropped because of loopholes.

Mr Theodore Brown, was told at Marylebone Crown Court, London, today that the police were in possession of 6 grams of cannabis. A officer told the court that and they were effects of 30 days for the Bill in the Commons will suffice if the present rate of progress continues.

Meanwhile Government business managers turn to thoughts of a guillotine on a Bill that looks like blocking parliamentary business until after the Easter recess. A total of 558 amendments... and 30 new clauses have been tabled. Among the signatories are Mr Maurice Macmillan, Mr Julian Amery, and Miss Harriet Andersson.

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NUT attacks college closures

By Tim Devlin
Education Correspondent

Mr Fred Jarvis, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said yesterday that the Government plans to close or amalgamate 28 teacher training colleges after 1980 were unnecessary.

He said the Government had abandoned its pledge made by Mr Prentice, when he was Secretary of State for Education and Science, to abolish all classes of more than 30.

The proposed closures were a tragedy. The Government should have made a proper manpower study of the needs of schools before making its decision.

Mrs Audrey Segal, editor of *Which Degree* and an expert on college of education policy, said she was particularly concerned about the decision to close the teacher-training department at North Worcester College. There students teachers were to be trained in a merger with a college of further education.

Dr Dennis Brailsford, principal of the college, said: "The closure is nonsensical of terms of time-scale. We were opened only four months ago as a merger between Shrewsbury and Bromsgrove colleges of further education. We had high hopes of becoming an open-access tertiary college with a strong vocational leaning. The Government has not given our degree courses a chance."

Miss Rosemary Carr, principal of Stockwell, which is soon to be merged into Bromley Institute of Higher Education, said teachers' training was the reason of the merger between Stockwell and Bromley colleges of art and design, and rarely accept militant leadership.

The Government this afternoon will recognize the impossibility of carrying compulsory legislation during the present session, or no doubt in the present Parliament. It hopes to carry legislation before the next election, although its application will be voluntary.

The Cabinet is deeply divided; and it is clear that there are doubts within the Shadow Cabinet, although there is an inclination to oppose the Bullock proposals to keep in harmony with the CBI and shareholders.

The notable feature is that many trade union MPs in the Parliamentary Labour Party are hostile to the predicted recommendations on the ground that they will weaken the centralized leadership of the workers in particular industries and companies; or that the West German model, openly

He told a meeting at Ebury:

"The conclusions are to argue for a major extension of existing union power. Yet nobody can claim that the existing trade union movement is rich in its qualities of democracy."

Main political parties split on industrial democracy

By Our Political Editor

Both main political parties are split on the proposals of the Bullock committee of inquiry, whose report today will recommend union representation on boards.

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Sir Max Aitken

Sir Max Aitken, aged 66, chairman of Beaverbrook Newspapers, who was flown from Nice to London on Sunday after being taken ill, has been advised to rest for at least six weeks.

Workers lukewarm, page 17

Opera's tour base

A scheme for the Welsh National Opera to establish a base in Birmingham for its English touring activities has been approved by the policy committee of West Midlands County Council.

Today

Dublin rebuff for terrorism accord

From Christopher Walker
Dublin

The Irish Government will refuse to sign the European convention on the suppression of terrorism when it is opened for signature at a meeting of foreign ministers of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg tomorrow.

The decision, explained in an interview with *The Times* yesterday by Mr Mahon Hayes, legal adviser to the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs, is likely to arouse a storm of protest from British MPs.

Less than a fortnight ago Mr Mason, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, told the House of Commons that he hoped the Irish Republic would join Britain in signing and ratifying the convention.

The proposed closures were a tragedy. The Government should have made a proper manpower study of the needs of schools before making its decision.

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political morale for their crimes. The Irish Government maintains that it is prevented from signing or ratifying the convention by a section of article 29 of its written constitution, which states: "Ireland accepts the generally recognized principles of international law as its rule of conduct in its relations with other states."

Mr Hayes said yesterday: "We have no alternative but to refuse because the generally recognized principles of international law do not allow a country to extradite someone wanted by another country for a political crime. For us the master is closed unless these should change in the next five or ten years."

The Irish Government abstained when the convention was formally adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe. Its attempts to substitute a clause whereby suspected terrorist could be tried in his country of origin rather than extradited failed.

In relation to the Provisional IRA, extradition has always been a subject of disagreement between the Irish and British Governments. British legal experts reject Irish arguments that non-extradition for politi-

cal offences is a generally accepted principle of international law.

Previous attempts to reach agreement failed in 1973 during the Anglo-Irish law enforcement commission. Instead the compromise fugitive offenders laws were introduced by both governments and came into effect on June 1 last year.

Since then no attempt has been made to use the legislation that would enable terrorists wanted for violent offences to be tried in courts on either side of the border. That has reinforced the view of the Irish Cabinet that repeated British complaints about the use of the IRA as a safe haven by the IRA were exaggerated.

Irish ministers maintain that a referendum to change article 29 would have to be held before the Government could ratify the European convention. It is argued that this would be impossible in the present political climate.

A senior Dublin official said at an early stage: "Mr Mason knew that we could not sign when he made his remarks, but on this point we always come up against the British propaganda machine. There is a deep-rooted reluctance to understand our position."

Replies, the drug info and welfare organization yesterday that cannabis were returned to defend several cases in the Scot area last year. I when the law was not

MP's quest on freed killer

Mr Rees, the Home Secretary, is to be asked in the House of Commons why John Robins was released despite a recommendation that he never be at large again.

Mr Lipton, Labour Member for Lambeth, Central, tabled a question about the case.

Compensation £9,000 for co.

Mr Albert Hajje, age 65, Lebanese businessman agreed to pay £9,000 compensation to St Alde's C of Oxford, which his son died in.

The statement said that in the Maze republican and loyalist sides say that integration of the two communities from birth is the only way to peace.

They were William Brian Reynolds, aged 18, of Cooke Street, Belfast; Anthony McGuire, aged 19, of Tharrell Court, Dungannon; and William Joseph Clinton, aged 20, of McCullough Street, Belfast.

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DPM NEWS

Direct warning by British Council on links in foreign links

Education

through paid services to rich oil-producing countries, and that means that nearly an eighth of the council's expenditure will come from sources other than the British taxpayer, compared with a tenth in 1974-75. "This marked improvement in revenue reflects the council's determination to help to earn its keep in hard times."

and Germany are much more on pro-cultural links with countries than Britain, and are asking them they should not spend.

an's remarks are in warning to Sir Kenneth head of the Central Review Staff, which g out a survey of the representation of the council fears that Sir will press for further £25m the council is to receive direct from sign and Commonwealth in 1977-78. His dations are expected

council, founded in 1940 te a knowledge and Britain overseas, has ff working abroad mainly engaged on closer academic, agricultural and cults with Britain in countries. They are nistering about £40m overseas aid to developries on behalf of Ministry of Overseas De-

in writes that the earning £4m, mainly

BBC will make longer films if finances improve

By Kenneth Gosling

If the BBC's finances improve in the next 10 years it will be looking very seriously at the possibility of developing its Ealing film stages for making long programmes on film, "movies for television", as the Americans call them.

The reasons for this prediction were given yesterday in a BBC lunch-time lecture by Mr Alasdair Milne, newly appointed managing director of BBC Television.

"We have spare capacity there", Mr Milne said, "which we do not have to the same extent at present in our electronic studios; the supply of feature films is declining and current tastes in cinema exploitation undoubtedly are already giving us problems; on top of which, some of our American friends have indicated that they would be more than interested in joining in such a venture."

Authority is accused of wasting land

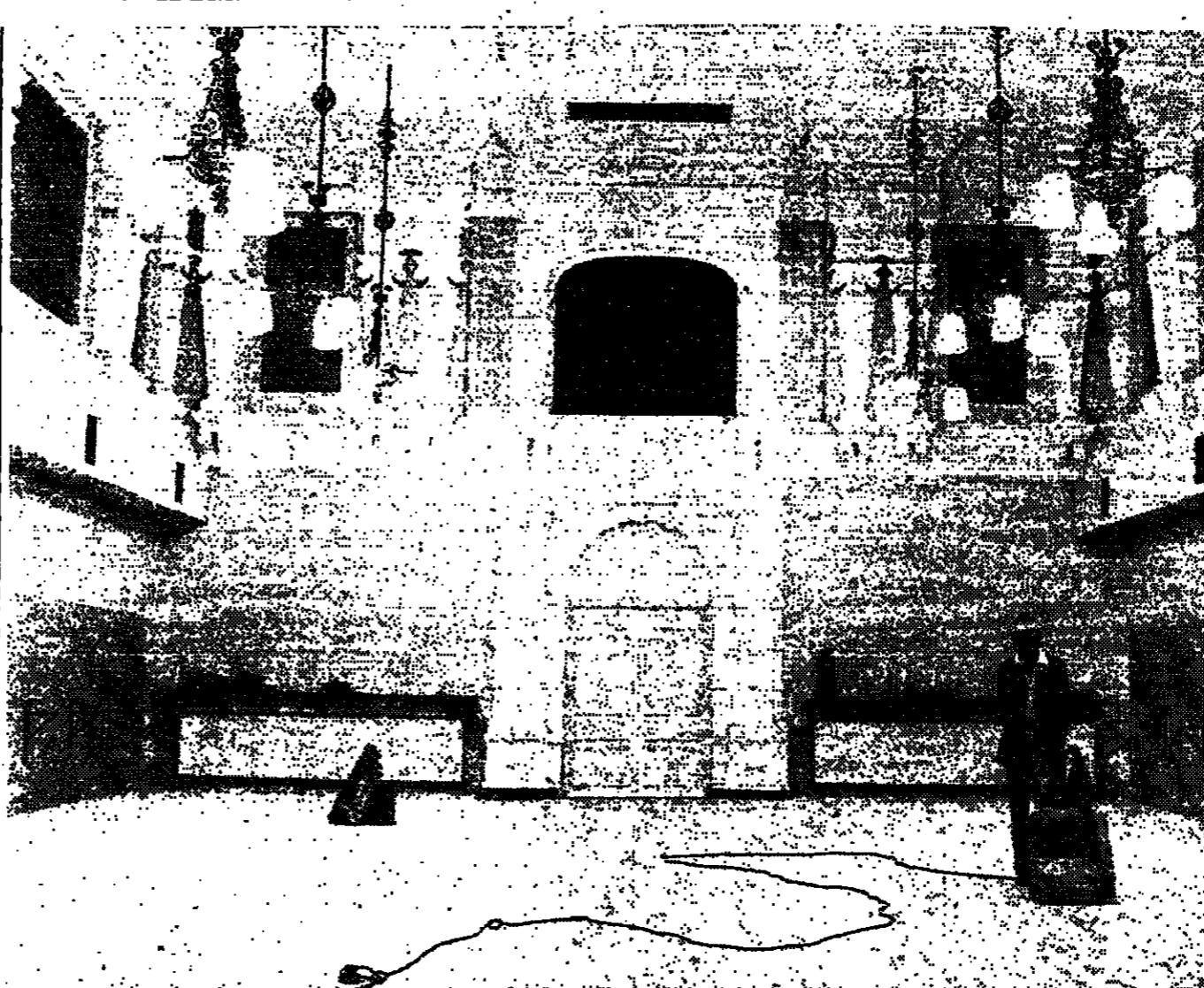
From Trevor Fishlock
Cardiff

Cardiff City Council was accused yesterday of wasting land and houses. The Friends of the Earth environmental group says there are more than three thousand people on the housing list, while more than seven hundred houses are empty.

There are many developments throughout the world in education, agriculture and public health in which they could be a more effective British participation with the council's support, Sir John writes. Private firms could also derive greater advantages from the council's contacts abroad.

Lord Ballantyne, the council's outgoing chairman, says the activities of the British Council cannot be switched on and off like an electric light. "When we pull out of a country, however we explain the remorseless reasons why the decision has been forced on us, we inflict a wound; and what improves our fortunes enable us to open up again the circumstances of our departure have not been forgotten, however long the interim, and are not forgiven for quite some time."

Lord Ballantyne has been succeeded as chairman by Mr C. H. W. Troughton, former chairman of W. H. Smith and Son (Holdings) Ltd, who is also chairman of the Open University's Educational Enterprises.



The main rehearsal room at Queen Alexandra's House, new headquarters of the London Festival Ballet, near the Albert Hall, being made ready.

Britain in Europe 4: Farmers' views are not yet fully attuned to the rest

Scepticism deepens in last year of transitional period

By Hugh Clayton

and Britain had to change to a new rhythm. She acquired, for example, a new institution to administer Community grants and subsidies and to buy the stocks that make up the British contribution to the notorious "mountains" of food.

The Intervention Board for Agricultural Produce, still almost unknown in the country, is a shadowy offshoot of Whitehall with more staff than the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection.

This year, the last of the transitional period, scepticism about the common agricultural policy (CAP) will be deeper than at any time in the past four years.

"Transition" was supposed to be an orderly movement of prices with a measured procession away from the British pattern established by the Agriculture Act of 1947 towards the EEC system. In a sense the two frameworks are comparable, since both seek the best of all worlds, with adequate supplies sold at the lowest prices consistent with the farming industry's needs.

Yet the EEC pursued that aim in a quite different way

were enabled to disrupt the British market with surplus eggs backed by loans that re-entered on the brink of illegality while Britain was excluded from the egg trade in France.

Throughout 1976 the British Government persistently refused to devalue the "green pound", the device with which EEC farm prices are expressed in sterling, despite a fall in the value of the currency itself.

British refusal to bow to pressure from the heights of the EEC bureaucracy on that issue and complaints from the main EEC dairy states about the cost of subsidizing British food prices at Community expense showed British farmers clearly that national rations d'etat applied in all member states to a policy in which the mechanics of the Common Market are fully applied.

Even as the dairy exporters, such as the Irish Republic and France, complained about the subsidies, they made use of them to sell their own dairy surpluses in Britain.

Mr Silkin is the most uncompromisingly anti-EEC Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food of the past four years.

This year has begun with an unprecedented alliance against increases in British farm prices on the scale of those being canvassed centrally in the EEC.

It is not surprising that the consumer lobby has brought glowing support to Mr Silkin's opposition to the inevitable working of the present Community farm policy. It is interesting that he has also been backed by food processors, some of agriculture's main customers, who are usually too timid to take part in public political debates.

The trade union movement in Britain is arrayed solidly behind the banner of cheap food, with the sole exception of the National Union of Agricultural and Allied Workers, which insists that the "green pound" should be devalued to bring adequate funds to farming.

British farmers have entered 1977 more convinced than ever that the country, having voted to stay in the EEC, wants to deny them the fruits that unfettered membership can bring.

To be continued

Clash over housing of Scottish homeless

By Peter Godfrey

A clash is imminent between the Scottish Office and voluntary housing agencies, supported by several MPs, over the treatment of homeless people in Scotland.

The agencies have been pressing for Scotland to be included in the Housing (Homeless Persons) Bill, due for second reading in the present parliamentary session. It proposes to transfer legal responsibility for housing the homeless from social services to housing departments, thereby providing for more direct intervention by local authorities.

The Bill is based on a circular drawn up by the Department of the Environment which includes only England and Wales, and the Scottish Office has vigorously opposed extension of the Bill to Scotland.

Mr Peter Gibson, director of Shelter in Scotland, said: "The cases of England and Wales have proved that the mandatory transfer of responsibility will not work. The rate of homelessness is more acute in Scotland than elsewhere in Britain, and we feel that action is urgent, while the Scottish Office insists on government by paralysis."

Groups supporting Shelter's view include the British Association of Social Workers and the Scottish Consumer Council. Mr Stephen Ross, Liberal MP for the Isle of Wight, who is sponsoring the Bill, said he would make strenuous efforts to extend it to Scotland, and he has mustered all-party support among Scottish MPs.

"It is a delicate area", he said. "There have been long debates in England and Wales over the form of the legislation, but the homeless situation in Scotland is unsatisfactory, and its inclusion would make the Bill more complete."

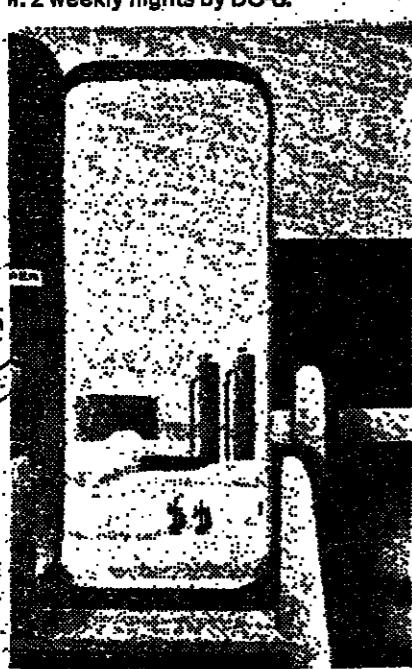
The Scottish Office insists on a full debate and voluntary transfer of power similar to that which has been found wanting in England and Wales.

"We feel that the decision should rest with individual housing authorities", the Scottish Office said. "We are drawing up a code of practice which should be ready by April, and will work through voluntary agreement. Scottish local authorities have proved able to cope with the vast majority of cases and we do not feel that legislation is necessary."

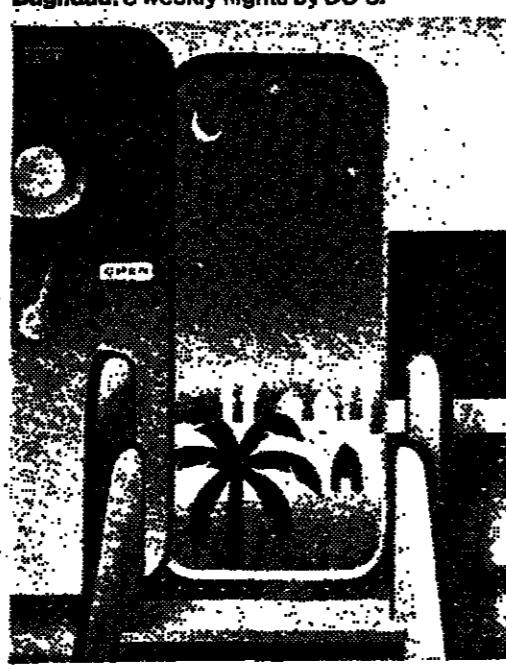
One possibility is that Mr Ross will introduce an amendment to exclude Scotland when his Bill reaches committee stage, but that might be thwarted by the Government, under pressure from the Scottish Office.

Open sesame.

2 weekly flights by DC-8.



Baghdad: 3 weekly flights by DC-8.

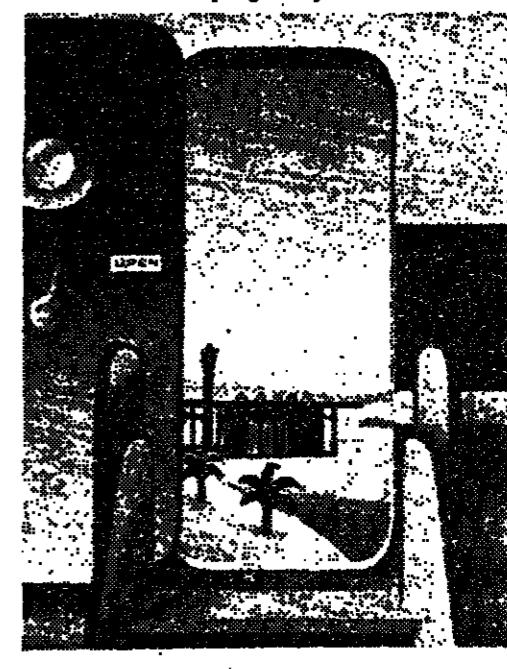


Cairo: 3 weekly flights by DC-10 and 3 by DC-8.

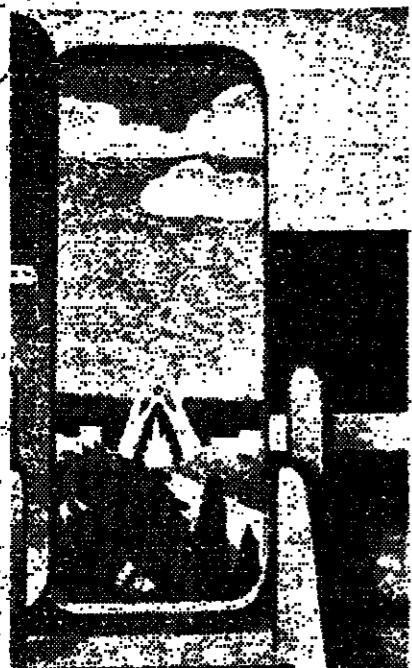


Damascus: 2 weekly flights by DC-8.

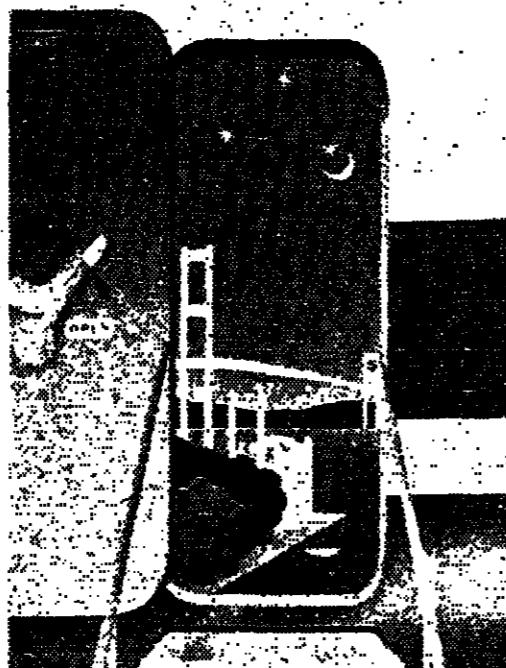
Dhahran: 3 weekly flights by DC-8.



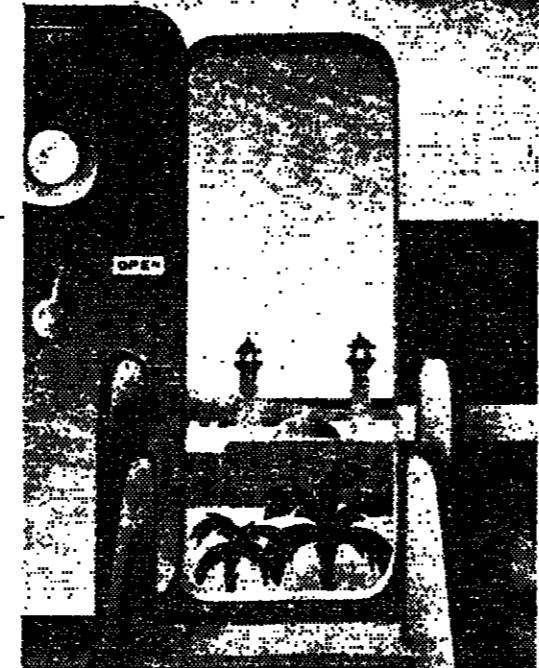
3 weekly flights by DC-8.



Istanbul: 9 weekly flights by DC-8.

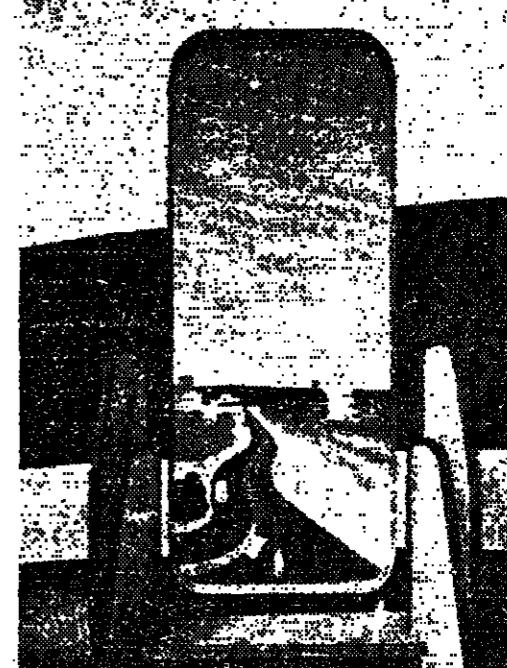


Kuwait: 2 weekly flights by DC-8.



Teheran: Daily flight by DC-8 (except Monday).

Tel Aviv: 4 weekly flights by DC-10 and 2 by DC-8.



Now that the Middle East has become great centre of business and finance, the ancient fabled world of the East has been somewhat neglected.

Swissair finds this rather a pity. And so

in its crisp, businesslike fashion it has thought up some ways to keep travel to the Near and Middle East from losing all its magic.

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from Switzerland to Baghdad, Dhahran, Istanbul, Teheran, Cairo and Tel Aviv. Some of them with fabulous DC-10 planes. And direct flights to Abu Dhabi, Damascus, Dubai, and Kuwait.

Tickets of admission and information on the best connecting flights from London and Manchester to Switzerland may be obtained from your travel agent or Swissair.



HOME NEWS

Four possible sites named in 500m-ton Belvoir Vale coalfield

By John Young

Confirmation that one of the world's largest coalfields lies beneath the countryside of the Vale of Belvoir on the Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire border, was given by the National Coal Board yesterday.

The board said that, having completed nearly three years of exploration, it estimated reserves at 500 million tons. Occupying an area of roughly 90 sq miles between Nottingham, Grantham and Melton Mowbray, the field contains six main seams at depths of between 1,300 and 2,750ft.

The stage is now set for a fierce environmental battle, which seems certain to involve the Government and probably Parliament.

Leicestershire County Council, led by the Duke of Rutland, is implacably opposed to exploitation of the field, and last November Mr Michael Latham, MP for Melton, obtained the support of more than a hundred Conservative colleagues for a motion calling for a special planning inquiry commission.

The coal board emphasized yesterday that the purpose of its announcement was to keep the public informed. It understood the anxieties expressed by many people about the effects on the community if the reserves were mined, and wanted to assure them that environmental considerations would be a principal factor in its future investigations.

Those investigations, which will be coordinated by Mr

Davies, a member of the board and a mining engineer, will be concentrated on four possible sites, all near working or disused railway lines. They are Hose, Leicestershire, the place originally recommended by consultants; Ashby and Salby, also in Leicestershire; and Langar, Nottinghamshire.

The board said it would await

detailed studies of the four sites before giving further consideration to the size, type, timing and location of any mining scheme.

Despite these reservations, it is obvious that the board attaches the greatest importance to the discovery.

The Duke of Rutland, who has said that he will lay down in front of the bulldozers if work is allowed to start, accused the board yesterday of losing all sense of reality. The county council would not give planning permission unless the need for the coal was unequivocally proved.

Mr Latham criticized the board's announcement as "calculated to cause maximum confusion" for the minimum benefit. "Above all it does not deal with the vital question of whether it is necessary to mine the coal," he said. "That issue can be settled only by a special inquiry into national energy policy."

The Times had suggested a select parliamentary committee, but in his view a special inquiry, free from any possible suggestion of political bias, was the best way.

Labour faces new battle between left and right

By Our Political Staff

The Labour Party faces another punishing struggle between right and left today when the national executive meets to decide whether it should re-open an investigation into Trotskyist activities inside the party.

Two members, Mr Tom Bradley, MP for Leicester, East, and Greenwich, Woolwich East, Mr John Cartwright, MP for Dulwich, 35 Red Lion Square, London, WC1R 4SG, £2.50.

Trotskyism, by Mr Underhill, the party's national agent, which was left "living on the table" more than a year ago. Some left-wingers are expected to challenge that with the argument that it might lead to a damaging "witch hunt" inside the party. The right wing, however, believes that the party has to examine evidence of infiltration in some constituency Labour parties and that to do otherwise would be to stir up trouble.

Number of births to immigrant mothers fell by 17,000 between 1971 and 1975

By Neville Hodgkinson

Births in England and Wales to mothers born overseas fell from 89,000 in 1971 to 72,000 in 1975, but rose slowly as a percentage of all births, according to figures issued yesterday by the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys.

The total number of births in 1971 was 783,000, of which 11.3 per cent were to mothers from outside the United Kingdom. The equivalent figures in 1975 were 693,000, and 11.9 per cent. Births to mothers from the Irish Republic fell from 2.8 per cent of the total to 2.1 per cent. Births to mothers born in

the New Commonwealth and Pakistan accounted for 5.8 per cent of the total in 1971, rising to 6.7 per cent in 1975. Those to mothers born in the West Indies fell from 12,500 to 7,000, and those to mothers born in India, Bangladesh and Pakistan from 21,600 to 20,000. There was an increase in births to mothers born in Africa, from 5,000 to 6,200, reflecting the inflow of East African Asians in recent years.

Other London boroughs with a high proportion of births to mothers born overseas are Kensington and Chelsea (57 per cent), Haringey (56 per cent) and the City of Westminster (52 per cent).

Windscale nuclear plan put in abeyance

By a Staff Reporter

British Nuclear Fuels is still considering whether to resubmit its plan to build an oxide reprocessing plant at Windscale, Cumbria. A statement by the company says it will not be able to decide until discussions with the Government and customers are over.

Meanwhile the company's outline planning application to Cumbria County Council for per-

mission to expand the present plant has been amended to exclude references to oxide reprocessing.

Mr Shore, Secretary of State for the Environment, suggested in the Commons on December 22 that the removal of references to oxide reprocessing from the planning application was one of the options open to the company if it wanted the application for expansion to be handled quickly.

Leading article, page 15

mission to expand the present plant has been amended to exclude references to oxide reprocessing.

It was the section of the application on oxide fuel that started the controversy last year which resulted in the county council's giving planning permission only in principle, on the understanding that the Government took full responsibility for the long-term safety aspects of the work.

The trial continues today.

Health risks from animals increasing, experts say

By John Roper

Health Services Correspondent

Pressure on farmers to produce more food as cheaply as possible, and changing patterns of living have increased the risks to humans of contracting diseases from animals, veterinary surgeons suggest in the first of a series of books on animal and health hazards, published today.

Speaking yesterday at a press conference to announce the book, Professor George Brander, Professor of Animal Health at Nottingham University, said there are more than 150 diseases that can be transferred from animals to humans. In recent years awareness of the dangers of rabies, Lassa fever and Marburg disease had increased.

The risk of contracting a disease from an animal was small, particularly if people were aware of the danger. But if existed with cats, dogs and other pets, such as parrots and budgerigars, as well as farm animals.

Professor Brander said intensive farming methods meant that more animals were handled than there was greater movement of animals between countries. Increasing international travel brought greater risks of contact with animals in Africa, Asia and South America, where effective controls did not always exist.

Dr John Walton, lecturer in veterinary preventive medicine at Liverpool University, and one of the authors of the new book, pointed to two hazards which he said were insufficiently recognized. The first was the risk of contracting brucellosis from drinking unpasteurized milk.

The second was the ignorance of housewives and some chefs of the fact that deep freezing preserves bacteria. A 3lb turkey, for example, may be taken up to 72 hours to thaw; heat takes a long time to penetrate it. The old cooking rule of 20 minutes a pound and 20 minutes over is an important one.

Animal and Human Health: The Control of Disease and Viral Bacterial Zoonoses (Baillière Tindall), 35 Red Lion Square, London, WC1R 4SG, £2.50.

servants. Similarly, the group "mother born in UK" includes an increasing number of women born in Britain but of New Commonwealth or Pakistani ethnic origin.

The highest concentration of birth to mothers born outside the United Kingdom occurred in the London borough of Brent, where of 3,590 births in 1975, 2,287 were to mothers from overseas.

Other London boroughs with a high proportion of births to mothers born overseas are Kensington and Chelsea (57 per cent), Haringey (56 per cent) and the City of Westminster (52 per cent).

He said the proposal for the oxide facilities, if resubmitted, would be called in and made the subject of a public inquiry.

It was the section of the application on oxide fuel that started the controversy last year which resulted in the county council's giving planning permission only in principle, on the understanding that the Government took full responsibility for the long-term safety aspects of the work.

Leading article, page 15

Do you know all you should about investment aid in the Areas for Expansion?

The investment aid which may be available to your company includes:

1. Capital grants of 20% or 22% for new buildings and, in many places, for new plant and machinery.
2. Loans on favourable terms or interest relief grants.
3. Factories with rent-free periods up to 2 years; options to purchase at favourable terms; low rentals.
4. Removal grants: up to 80% toward costs of moving into the Areas.

Higher farm prices are demanded

By Our Agricultural Correspondent

British farm prices must rise to realistic levels, Sir Henry Plumbe, president of the National Farmers' Union, said yesterday. Increases would have to be much higher than those made inevitable this year by transitional steps to parity with the rest of the EEC.

Those steps are estimated by the government-appointed National Consumer Council to entail increases of 12p a pound on butter and 1p on a large loaf.

Sir Henry opened the annual meeting of the union at Central Hall, Westminster, by repeating his insistence message that increases are essential to restore farmers' confidence. He told members that although they understood the Government's reluctance to let food prices rise, little was ever said about the effect of that policy on their incomes.

Hitherto, later statements from the floor showed that although the farming lobby is more politically isolated than ever it is determined to press its demands.

"Food imports are up by



Sir Henry Plumbe: Attack on "policy deficiencies".

about £700m and 7 per cent in volume alone", Sir Henry said.

"Blame the weather in part for this, but the setbacks in livestock production owed more to deficiencies of policy than to deficiencies of weather."

The bitterness of British farmers over the Government's refusal to devalue the "green pound", the device with which EEC farm prices are expressed in sterling, was obvious at

the meeting. The green pound has not been devalued since late 1975, even though the value of sterling itself has fallen sharply.

Mr Michael Lee, the chairman of the Devon branch of the NFU, said members there were speaking of militant action. Farming was the only industry in Britain that was ready to compete in the EEC on EEC terms, yet it was prevented from doing so by an unrealistic value for the green pound.

Before the meeting voted to call for "an immediate and significant devaluation of the green pound", Mr Michael Brooks, chairman of the Cheshire branch, summarized farmers' desires as "reasonable regular devaluations of the green pound, nothing more".

Delegates also condemned the proposals of the Labour Party home policy committee for land nationalization.

Mr C. Rock-Blackstone, of Petersfield, Hampshire, said: "I think we have enough of the left-wing Marxist rubbish we have been given". Mr Richard Butler, deputy president of the union, said: "We are going to get publicity for our views today."

Sir Henry said, after taking a unanimous vote for resolution 1, "I am going to ask if there is anyone who dares speak against."

Record rail accidents caused by vandalism

By Our Transport Correspondent

Railway accidents caused by vandalism reached a record level in 1975, and are a real risk of a disaster, Colonel Ian McNaughton, Chief Inspector of Railways, says today.

More than half the total of 225 accidents on trains caused by malicious acts, arose from trains running into obstructions on the line. That was after British Rail had removed about two thousand obstructions before they could cause an accident.

There were many examples of lives of both passengers and crews being endangered by missiles thrown at moving trains and a number of injuries were caused in that way. Sixteen fires were deliberately started on trains, compared with three the year before.

Some progress is being made in combating vandalism through fitting armoured windscreens, and by putting police officers in cars in bad areas, with radio control to police cars.

Another source of worry is children straying on the track. Although the number killed fell from 23 to 18 during the year, those injured rose from 38 to 60. The number is far too high and unacceptable in relation to the grief and suffering caused", and Colonel McNaughton appeals to parents of children below school age not to let them play unsupervised near the railway.

Railway Accidents: Report to the Secretary of State for Transport on the Safety Record of the Railways in Great Britain during the year 1975 (Stationery Office, £1.35).

Killer's funeral changed after protests

The funeral service for William Hughes, who killed four people after escaping from a prison escort, took place at Chesterfield crematorium, Derbyshire, yesterday, less than an hour after protesters had filled in a grave that had been dug for him at Boythorpe, eight miles away.

The service was to have been held at Boythorpe, but local residents protested. A Home Office meeting was held and it was decided, with relatives' permission, to change the funeral.

The Home Office feared that protesters might dig up the grave after the interment and so it arranged for a cremation service at the same place where Hughes' four victims were cremated last week.

Shortly before the service began a dozen protesters marched into the Boythorpe cemetery in pouring rain and filled in the grave.

In brief

John Stonehouse loses appeal

The Court of Appeal day rejected an appeal by John Stonehouse, former MP for Walsall, North, against his conviction at the Central Criminal Court last year of five insurance frauds by death by drowning.

It rejected arguments that the £125,000 in money was outside the jurisdiction of an English court. He application for leave to appeal against the seven-year jail sentence imposed was rejected.

Cannabis leaf charge dropped

After the Court of Appeal ruled that possession of his leaves is not illegal, Mr Bradley, aged 31, was released. Marylebone Magistrates' Court, London, on a charge of evidence being offered.

Mr Colin Bradley, a cannabis plant at his Penzance Place, Nottin-

Mr Callaghan clash on press

Mr Viagers, Conservative for Gosport, accused the Minister yesterday of a treatment of the Committee of the press.

He had written to ask Callaghan to explain his remark that press freedom apparently meant free print information will be held up while Mr Callaghan had reportedly refrained identifying the matter a not intend to do so."

Mental hospital admissions down

For the first time for years readmission to mental hospitals fell by a margin of 0.09 per 1,000.

First admissions, at 2,310, 4 per cent compared with 1973. Total trend had been total to fall by 2.5 to 3 a year since 1970.

Arsenist aged 15

A girl, aged 15, of Ratnesham, South Gloucestershire, who started two fires in her home with intent to endanger the life of her mother, was sentenced at Leeds Crown Court yesterday to be for five years. Her sister, aged 18, who started one of the fires, was put on probation for three years.

£900,000 drugs

Nathaniel Jacobs, aged 21, Cavendish Road, Sale, Manchester, and Mahmoud Shamji, aged 21, Abingdon Road, London, were each jailed for months yesterday by the Crown Court for possess nabis resin valued at

Mr Eric Morecam

Mr Eric Morecam comedian, is to receive honorary DLitt in Lancaster University services to the theatre.

Decree against kites

Mrs Teresa Ann J aged 45, wife of John J aged 46, convicted of was granted a decree London yesterday.

Correction

The number of one-parent families in Britain is at least 200,000 as stated in an article on January

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In Europe

Solar response from Mr Schmidt to Carter reflation plan

Herr Schmidt said West Germany would honour its treaties and agreements, but he added obscurely that it was always possible for a country to acquire further obligations and duties, by treaty. This can be taken to mean that the issue is far from closed.

Other topics reviewed included the Middle East and the need for a peace initiative there, on which the two countries agreed to keep in close touch, the return of democracy in Portugal and Spain and the need to restrain international sales of conventional arms.

With no doubt unintended irony, Mr Mondale at the end of the joint press conference handed Herr Schmidt a signed copy of President Carter's inaugural address.

Only this morning, Herr Schmidt was quoted in an interview with *The New York Times* criticising the speech for "lacking in clear direction". The appearance of the interview, which contained a strong element of the wagging index finger which Herr Schmidt has tended to conceal recently, obviously failed to sour today's atmosphere.

Hugh Noyes, Parliamentary Correspondent, writes: Mr Callaghan was closely questioned in the Commons yesterday about Herr Schmidt's reaction to the Government's proposals for offsetting the cost of stationing British troops in Germany.

The Prime Minister, in a statement on his talks with Herr Schmidt in London on Monday, said that no attempt was made to reach a final agreement.

The Americans had held different position and the federal Chancellor had pointed out that similar arrangements with the United States had already ended.

Discussions would continue, Parliamentary report, page 8

French put sun to work making electricity

From Our Own Correspondent Paris, Jan 25

The first solar power station to supply electricity to the French national grid was inaugurated today at Odeillo, in the eastern Pyrenees.

Soon after the inauguration, a break in the clouds made it possible for the power station to make enough steam to reach 380 volts.

The station is experimental and designed to show that it is possible to produce electric current industrially from the heat of the sun. Its capacity is modest, only 64 kilowatts.

It is of the "tower" type designed in a number of countries throughout the world, notably in Japan. The boiler is located on top of the tower, and plain or parabolic mirrors concentrate the sun's rays on it.

Mirrors which can follow the sun in its course, and thus increase the efficiency of the plant, are also being studied.

The advantage of locating the power station at Odeillo is that it can use the heat generated by the existing solar oven, which was located some years ago on this site, where the rate of sunshine is the highest in the country. The French hope it will serve as a demonstration plant for development.

American experts have come to Odeillo in the hope of experimenting with a boiler for their future superheated (550°C) solar power stations. But in this first stage, their French colleagues plan to use fluids at temperatures of only about 335°C.

Two separate programmes are under way in France for the production of solar power, with the state paying up to three quarters of the cost.

In the next 12 months the industrial groups concerned will have to furnish their final plans and the two prototypes will be built towards the end of 1979.



Winter racing in Bavaria: Farmers on horseback race round an icy circuit with their partners skiing behind them at Parsberg, near Munich, in a ski-joring event.

Fewer ask for asylum in Switzerland

From Richard Wigg
Lisbon, Jan 25

Berne, Jan 25.—More than 850 people applied for political asylum in Switzerland last year but the number was less than half that of 1975. The largest group were the Vietnamese, with 166.

Last year's applicants also included 90 Romanians, the only group which increased in comparison with the 1975 figures, when only 43 Romanians applied.—Reuters

Royal dog loses name after Muslim protests

Stockholm, Jan 25.—King Carl Gustav of Sweden has changed the name of his black Labrador from Ali to Charlie. Muslims throughout the world had objected to the name as Ali was the adopted son of the prophet Muhammad.

most expensive country for soft on separatist violence. Senator António Soárez Gomes, the Minister of Economic Coordination, has admitted that the 20 per cent increase is designed to bring in additional tax revenue, not merely to compensate for the recent oil producers' price increases, the falling rate of the escudo and higher transport charges.

The Azores government has threatened to pay the difference between the new and the old prices from local budget funds. But a Cabinet meeting yesterday ended without any statement. Financial autonomy is severely limited and the Azores budget already requires a heavy subsidy from Lisbon which tries to earn the use of such funds.

The petrol price dispute is being exploited not only to whip up regional sentiment but also to continue the bickering between the Portuguese Socialists and the Social Democrats.

The price of top grade petrol rose by decision of the Lisbon Cabinet by 20 per cent last Friday, making Portugal the

most expensive country for soft on separatist violence. Senator António Soárez Gomes, the Minister of Economic Coordination, has admitted that the 20 per cent increase is designed to bring in additional tax revenue, not merely to compensate for the recent oil producers' price increases, the falling rate of the escudo and higher transport charges.

The fishermen, inshore and deep sea from ports stretching from Aveiro to Faro and including Lisbon, went on strike in spite of the fact that the Government had suspended until February 1 a ruling on recruiting which they dislike. Their trade unions issued a five-point demand which, they said, must be accepted.

Earlier the Government had upheld a management decision in firm at present under state control to dismiss 10 fishermen who had refused to accept additional crew nominated from another boat.

M Barre tries to see how his plan is working

From Our Own Correspondent Paris, Jan 25

M Barre, the Prime Minister, has just spent 48 hours in the provinces assessing the impact of his economic recovery programme and listening to suggestions and grievances. He visited Orleans, Bourges and smaller towns of the central region which are reputed for their sense of balance and political moderation in all things.

By his quiet determination, his readiness to talk to all sections of the population, and his refusal to be overawed by hostile demonstrations, he has undoubtedly impressed local leaders and added to his steadily growing political stature.

He is reminiscent in many ways of Georges Pompidou. Like President Pompidou, he is inclined to see in the provinces the solid, reliable heart of the country.

"Orleans", he said in that town, "is at the heart of deep France, that is to say true France, of a France of which one speaks little because it hates agitation and seeks moderation, but progresses none the less and is changing very rapidly through work and effort".

But even that "deep France" is not spared political divisions. In spite of his wish, M. Barre could not meet representatives of the opposition. The Socialists and Communists, and the two leading trade unions organizations had decided to boycott the receptions and meetings planned in Orleans and Bourges with local representatives.

In Orleans, the Prime Minister dropped into a department store to see how his price policy was working out. "We can't make ends meet," a shopper remarked. "I know," he replied. "My wife tells me the same thing every day."

In the town square, about 100 demonstrators were brandishing banners and shouting hostile slogans. To the astonishment of officials they walked over to the demonstrators in a determined fashion and tried to counter their arguments. "Down with the Barre plan", they shouted. "No to the wage freeze."

M. Barre told them indignantly: "We don't freeze wages. We maintain purchasing power. But you don't want your lies shown up."

Asked by reporters about the wave of 24-hour strikes which is due to begin tonight in the railways, airlines, and other public services, health, education and the post office, M. Barre replied with impatience: "The right to strike exists. The strikes will take place. But government policy will not change."

Critical crimes doubled in Italy

Nichols

25 Andreotti, the Italian interior minister, said today that terrorism had escalated to a level where there were 198 political crimes as many as in 1975. Minister was open to debate on his controversial release everyone with the Milan bombing from any obligation official secrecy laws is designed to prevent the accused or

witnesses, some of whom are members of the secret service, from claiming that they cannot disclose official secrets without breaking the penal code.

The trial at Catanzaro, is the fourth attempt to hear the facts of the Milan bombing seven years ago. Sixteen people were killed in the blast.

Signor Andreotti told Parliament that the steps being taken within the European Community and with other countries to combat terrorism. He said the Ministers of Justice and the Interior had intensified their contacts in this field. The Foreign Ministry was backing every useful effort in dealing with international terrorism and he referred to a European convention against terrorism, which he hoped would be signed at Strasbourg on Thursday.

The Prime Minister told Parliament that in Italy last year the left-wing "Red Brigades" had been involved in 95 attacks of a political nature, including 12 robberies and one kidnapping. About 30 of their hiding places had been discovered, 37 of the members were arrested and 13 were still being hunted by police.

The paint you don't see—the primer—is also important in determining the life of the car body it protects.

And who has provided Ford with an advanced electrocoat primer, for the car that's 'Built to Last'?

Hoechst—through its subsidiaries Berger Paints in the UK and Stollack in Austria.

Hoechst is one of the world's largest companies. Last year it spent over £200 million on research alone.

Hoechst in the UK employs over 8,000 people. In 1976 its UK companies had a turnover of about £300 million.

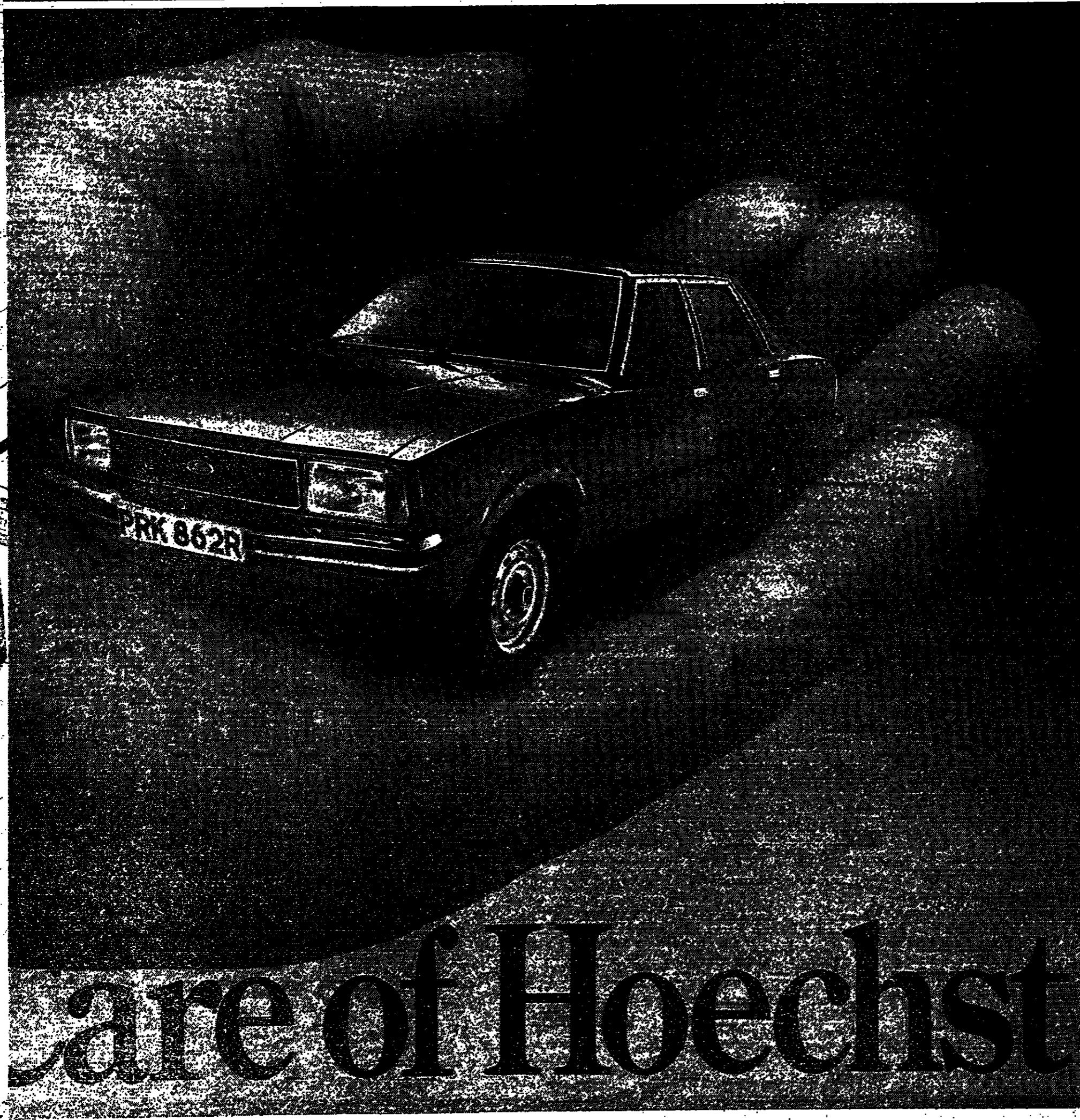
Its products in the UK, apart from decorative and industrial paints, include plastics, dyestuffs, chemicals, fibres, pharmaceuticals, sunglasses, hair care products, perfumes.

Hoechst



In the UK, Berger paints are produced in Dagenham, Stratford, Bristol, Newcastle, and East Kilbride.

For more facts, please write:
'Care of Hoechst', Salisbury Road, Hounslow, Middlesex. Or phone 01-570 7712 ext. 3145.



Electrocoat

OVERSEAS

Franco-Saudi Arabian challenge to US on Middle East peace

From Paul Martin
Riyadh, Jan 25

France endorsed basic Arab demands and joined with Saudi Arabia today in a challenge to the Carter Administration to make the search for a Middle East peace the top priority in the year ahead. This was the highlight of a declaration amounting to a foreign policy alliance between the two states which emerged from President Giscard d'Estaing's four-day state visit to Saudi Arabia.

His search for the desired "special relationship" an apparent success the French President did not, however, return home with the economic bonanza expected by his public.

Apart from a favourable three-year oil deal, an agreement to take part in a massive housing scheme and a list of probable deals, the result of the visit was largely political.

Nevertheless, it is clear that the French leader's visit did serve to hasten a number of projects of special interest to both countries. Although it was denied that arms played a large role in the talks, it is understood that M Giscard d'Estaing had agreed to the French sponsored Arab arms industry for Egypt.

As the President flew out of Riyadh on board Concorde with his ministers of foreign affairs, foreign trade and finance, he was assured by King Khalid that a special place was reserved for Saudi interests for France.

Throughout the Saudi king emphasized the high esteem in which the President was personally held, describing him in terms of an Arab hero.

Although the visit was short in tangibles, it was made clear that mutual friendship existed.

For their part, the Saudis announced their intention to build an Islamic cultural institute in France as a showpiece of the Arab civilization in Europe. The French declared their willingness to provide Saudi Arabia with a nuclear centre for research purposes.

However, the immediate importance came in the form of the political bond created by the talks. President Giscard d'Estaing made it obvious that the talks he held with King Khalid and Crown Prince Fahd on the Middle East and wider international questions resulted in a complete identity of views.

"There is no reason for those involved in the Middle East peace process to think that the chances for success will be better in the future than they are now," the President said in

his press conference before leaving. In an obvious attempt to spur on the United States, he said: "There is no reason to pursue a policy of wait and see."

Echoing the views of Saudi leaders, he said the proposed Geneva conference was the proper means of tackling the problem, that urgent steps should be taken to convene it. But he added, the conference should be well prepared and should not bore itself with side issues—a reference to Israel's opposition to Palestinian participation—and get down to matters of substance.

The French President also outlined the peace he envisaged for the Middle East. It should be a "just and lasting" solution based on a complete withdrawal of Israel from Arab territories occupied in the 1967 war, recognition of the Palestinians' right to a homeland and guarantees for the states of the area to live within recognized international boundaries.

He also explained France's position regarding King Khalid's visit yesterday, for French participation in the Geneva peace talks. France, he said, had no business at the initial stages because it was not a party to the conflict. "But if at a certain stage the useful participation of France was needed then we will not oppose it," he said.

The French role in the Geneva scenario, as he saw it, was at a time when guarantees for both the Arabs and Israel were required. "But we and other European states should first agree among ourselves on this," he said. What he seemed to be suggesting was a European involvement which is something that the Arabs have wanted for some time.

Understandably, no mention of the United States was made in all this but as it is the prime mover in the Middle East peace process, the Franco-Saudi declaration was meant for President Carter's ears as was the call for serious efforts in the North-South dialogue which was the other recurring theme of President Giscard d'Estaing's talk.

Just what all this means for Saudi Arabia's more important alliance with its traditional ally, the United States, remains to be seen. In the period leading up to Mr Carter's installation in the White House the Saudis have made a number of noises which at times have sounded almost threatening so far as the United States is concerned.

Right to produce F16 jet fighter sought by Israel

From Moshé Brillant
Tel Aviv, Jan 25

In a public attempt to win rights to co-produce the American F16 combat aircraft, the Israeli Defense Ministry claimed today that Israel had been helping United States arms manufacturers improve their weapons.

A statement issued in Jerusalem said the United States Government and its arms industries had received a steady flow of information on the performance and effectiveness of previously unfriendly weapons which had been used by both sides in the Yom Kippur war.

Co-production of the F16s would give Israel the possibility of maintaining its aircraft industry and ensuring that Israel will be in a position to face the quantitative and now qualitative

advantage enjoyed by the Arabs", it was stated.

The statement answered charges that Israel had used American technology to compete with United States manufacturers in exports, stating that Israel was committed not to sell weapons to countries where the United States indicated opposition.

Israel-manufactured weapons included Western systems adapted to particular needs in the Middle East while others were purely of Israeli design, the statement went on. It particularly denied the charge that the Shafir air-to-air missile was a copy of the American Sidewinder. In fact, it was stated, the Israeli obtained their first Sidewinder after the Shafir had already shot down a considerable number of enemy aircraft in 1969.

Censorship eased in Lebanon

Beirut, Jan 25.—The authorities today lifted pre-censorship on foreign news organizations operating in Lebanon. The move was seen as a sign of growing confidence in the present truce.

The decision was announced at a press conference at the headquarters of the Public Security Service, just three weeks after the introduction of stringent censorship regulations which made reporting on the country's problems virtually impossible.

Mr Zahi Boustani, the Public Security Commissioner, told foreign correspondents that a list issued earlier this month of 13 subjects banned from publishing would remain in force.

These ranged from material likely to encourage sedition and dispatches likely to harm Lebanon's foreign relations to "all material harmful to public morale."

Foreign correspondents still must submit one copy of their reports to the censors after the stories have been transmitted.

Mr Boustani, who had been responsible for enforcing the regulations, added that pre-censorship would continue for the domestic press in Lebanon, once the only Arab country

with a free press reflecting every shade of political opinion.

One of the reasons for the surprise announcement was that it appeared to be a Government desire to attract foreign investment to rebuild an economy shattered by 18 months of civil war which left an estimated 50,000 dead.

Businessmen have said that foreign investors would be reluctant to risk ventures in a country as long as they had no reasonably accurate picture of developments.

The war has caused losses estimated at up to £3,000m, with Beirut's commercial districts, once the financial hub of the Middle East, in total ruin.

Pre-censorship was introduced on January 5 in a decree issued under extraordinary powers granted to President Sarkis' Government last month.

The Government appeared determined to avoid the kind of acrimonious public dispute over Lebanon's problems which helped wreck previous ceasefires.

However, they were still north of the Litani river, which is generally regarded as the "red line" beyond which any advance by non-Lebanese Arab forces would be considered an intolerable threat to Israel.

Mr Vance's peace mission

Washington, Jan 25.—Mr Cyrus Vance, the Secretary of State, will visit six Middle East countries next month to try to bring about progress towards a settlement of the Arab-Israeli dispute, the White House announced today. He is to travel to Israel, Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan, Syria and Saudi Arabia from February 14 to 21.

Mr Jody Powell, the White House press secretary, said Mr Vance would convey to Middle East leaders "the importance the President attaches to making significant progress this

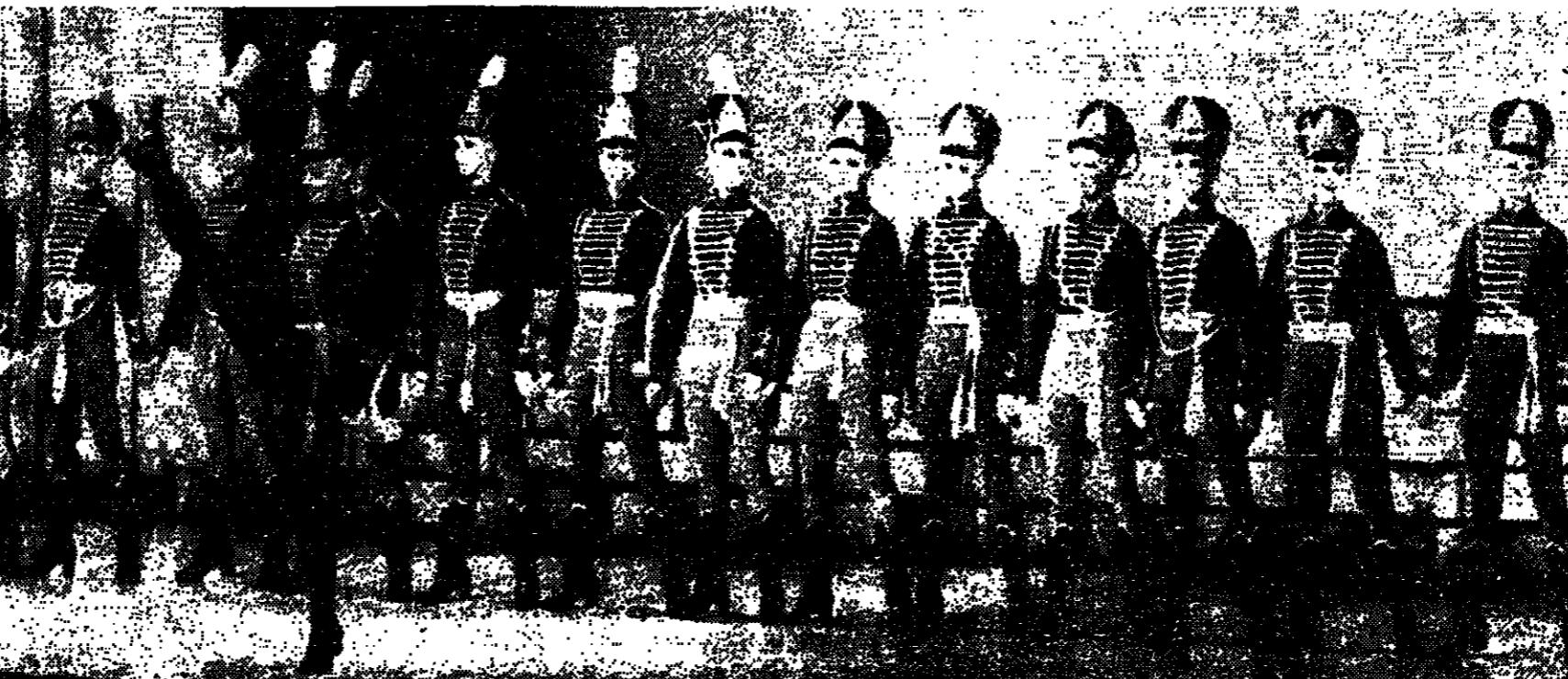
year toward a just and lasting peace in the Middle East".

Mr Vance would also emphasize the value Mr Carter placed on maintaining good bilateral relations with Middle East countries, he said.

President Carter today nominated Mr Ellion Richardson, the former Ambassador to Britain, as an ambassador-at-large and his special representative for the law-of-the-sea-conference.

The conference, involving more than 150 countries, aims to develop rules for use of the world's oceans.

Mr Richardson, Commerce Secretary and Attorney General—Reuter.



A Western look to Russian ballet. This is a scene from "The Ballet of the Hussars", a new production which has opened at the Grand Music Hall in Leningrad.

IMF in Cairo talks on loan for Egypt

From Robert Fisk
Cairo, Jan 25

After several hours of talks between the Egyptian Government and officials of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in Cairo, Mr Hamed Sayeh, the Egyptian Economy Minister, emerged this afternoon with the slightly unhelpful assurance that the IMF appreciated the country's economic difficulties but with no confirmation that Egypt was to receive a loan of \$140m (£82m).

Predictably enough, it was the semi-official newspaper *Al Ahram* which first suggested that the IMF had looked favourably on Egypt's economic needs during the discussions chaired by Mr Sayeh yesterday.

The paper also said in its lead story that a further \$450m three-year assistance programme for Egypt would get under way in January next year. The IMF delegates refused to make any comment, however, one of them saying that the IMF had its own ways of announcing loans and that "talking to reporters" was not one of them.

Two other Cairo newspapers gave different figures for the loan although *Al Ahram* did quote Dr Kaissouni, the Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs, as saying that "agreements" would be signed within two weeks. It is, in fact, more than likely that a large loan has been agreed in principle and confirmation today that President Sadat is to make his broadcast to the nation on Thursday suggests this is true.

It is unlikely that he would make any address to a population so recently angered by price increases without some announcement of financial aid for Egypt. The official total of dead from last week's riots, which ended when the food price increases were suspended, now stands at 73, including a policeman and a soldier.

The press in Cairo meanwhile is giving much space to the names of humble trade union officials and workers organizations who have donated money to the Government for rebuilding offices burnt down by the rioters. Several papers carried a photograph of a cheque for 10,000 Egyptian pounds (£17,000) received by Mr Sadat from the Inland Transport Workers Federation.

Whatever the mixture, the

Threat of legal action against Dr Sakharov

Moscow, Jan 25.—A senior Soviet legal official today warned Dr Andrei Sakharov, the Russian dissident and Nobel peace prize winner, that he could face legal action if he did not cease "slanderous activities" against the state.

Mr Vasily Gusev, First Deputy Public Prosecutor, also told Dr Sakharov that he should return a statement he made earlier this month expressing fear that an explosion in Moscow Underground may have been a political provocation against dissidents.

He said the document concluded: "Citizen Sakharov is warned that, if he continues his slanderous activities, he will be held responsible according to Soviet law." Mr Gusev told him the warning was to be taken extremely seriously.

Dr Sakharov, once one of the Soviet Union's leading nuclear physicists, was last summer summoned to the prosecutor's office three and a half years ago. He was then issued with a verbal warning against associating with foreigners.

Dr Sakharov said he told Mr Gusev today he would be delighted if his statement on

"criminal acts" of slander.

He quoted the document, which he was not allowed to copy, as saying that he asserted in his statement that the explosion, which killed at least four people, was "a provocation of the authorities against so-called dissidents".

He said the document concluded: "Citizen Sakharov is warned that, if he continues his slanderous activities, he will be held responsible according to Soviet law." Mr Gusev told him the warning was to be taken extremely seriously.

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Dr Sakharov said he told Mr Gusev today he would be delighted if his statement on

the explosion led to an objective investigation of it "if the real culprits were found and there are no provocations against dissidents."

However, he told the prosecutor that his fears were supported by the fact that three people—two known dissidents and one friend of his family, all of whom he knew to be innocent—had been questioned by police about the explosion.

He believed it was important to maintain the human rights struggle at the present time in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. Recent developments in Poland, Czechoslovakia and other Soviet block states showed that the movement was entering a new stage.

"We have learned with admiration of the Charter-77 in Czechoslovakia and the committee to defend arrested workers in Poland", he added. "We express our solidarity with them and hope that inter-

national support will protect them."

He hoped that international attention to such actions as the explosion in the Moscow Underground would prevent any development that would "throw back the progress" of the human rights movement.

Dr Sakharov said that just before issuing his statement on the explosion, he and his family had received 12 envelopes posted in Norway containing apparently threatening newspaper clippings. The envelopes, posted in and near Oslo on December 18, had all been delivered together through the Soviet mail although his post from abroad seldom got through.

The cuttings included scenes of serious road accidents, animals seizing human children, and an advertisement for a funeral parlour in a Russian emigre newspaper, he said.

Through a similar action in the faction led by M Nkomo, Mr Smith, it opted for "a war party".

Bishop Abel Muzorewa described the reje-

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SEAS

Energy claim South African police took part in attacks on blacks during Cape Town riots

By Miles Ashford

London, Jan 25
SOUTH Africa's riot police, accused in attacks on black townships, during which at least 100 died, is contained in a publication today by an organization known as Fraternal, which contains a eyewitness accounts police shadings, lays accusations of complicity police. While admissions of the accounts proven and the situation extremely serious, the report states it is fully satisfied they

Fraternal, composed of Christian churches, the Roman Catholic, and Methodist. Its members work in black townships—Soweto and Langata took place, before Christmas, between workers (mainly Xhosas) and township residents by students. The started after the workers had refused to in the period of called by the students Christmas holiday for had been killed during unrest earlier

According to the report, the outraged certain migrant township residents, in some cases assisted with the

attacks. It also says some riot police even encouraged the migrants to kill residents by pointing out the wounded on the ground.

The report quotes one woman as saying that riot police led a group of migrant workers into her house who then beat up her husband. He later died of head injuries. Another woman claims she was shot by riot police who then allowed a group of migrant workers to burn down her house.

It states: "The primary factor which made the Christmas upheavals possible was the role played by the riot police in encouraging some people to violence and allowing a situation of anarchy and death to prevail for a few terrible days."

The rioting in the black townships last year was the subject of a heated exchange in Parliament today between Mr James Kruger, the Minister of Justice, and Mrs Helen Suzman of the Opposition Progressive Reform Party. During the exchange Mr Kruger produced a Russian-made sub-machine gun and a poster saying: "The ANC calls you to take up arms, to destroy this fascist regime", to illustrate his contention that the riots were instigated from outside the country.

This is what we face in South Africa," he declared.

"This is what the South African police are busy doing. This is what our people are clearing up in South Africa and, therefore, I do not apologize for police actions."

Meanwhile, a political row is brewing over a Bill to indemnify the South African authorities against civil or criminal proceedings for their actions and statements during the disorders that began with the Soweto riots. The Indemnity Bill, published today, will cover the period from June 16 last, when the Soweto riots began, until the Bill becomes law.

Mrs Suzman said the Bill would give protection to any person in authority for anything he might have done, even if his actions were illegal. She described it as "an appalling little Bill".

Speaking in the no confidence debate, Mrs Suzman said eyewitness' accounts of the riots testified to the fact that there had been an indiscriminate use of force and firearms by the police. The high number of dead and wounded could be attributed to the inadequate training and equipping of the riot police, she added.

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priests

Jan 25—The death imposed on Mr Harry Britton, has been confirmed imprisonment on Bounedjene of British Embassy id today. eia was convicted o years ago of large quantities of Algeria. ion Ministry told that three other invited of drug are being freed and sentences of two leased are Mr David Richard Morales and Ry Read. whose prison terms reduced are Mr Lyne and Mr Brian France-Presse.

port January 25 1977

Amin 'action programme' to increase production

Nairobi, Jan 25

From Our Correspondent President Amin today told Ugandans on the sixth anniversary of the coup which brought him to power, that a new three-year "action programme" to increase agricultural and industrial output was in the final stages of preparation.

His "revolutionary military administration", he said, continued to put action before promises. He warned Ugandans who damaged industrial machinery that they would be punished as saboteurs.

In references to the East African Community, now threatened with dissolution, the President declared Uganda's continued support for the Community and said East Africans would not forgive those responsible if it broke up.

Court of Appeal

Separate trials for two persons accused of one murder

Legal

Mr Justice Scarman, Shaw and Mr Justice

spare trials were two defendants jointly murder, one of whom have com- plement, and both of them other than the defen- dant second and was not suffer a mis- tice in that the first is acquitted before his

Mr. Moghal, of Birmingham, appealed y against his con- cesser to his con- siderer at Birmingham (Mr Justice May- lass to Justice Imprison-

Draycott, QC, and Cusack for the appellees Cripps, QC, and for the Crown.

JUSTICE SCARMAN, delivered judgment, said action raised by the whether, in a case in particular, jointly participating in a crime and the defence that the other alone and it (the so-called "defence), justice

be done if separate ordered. The case was tried and two men were accused and place at which e of them were pre- the woman or the resem appellant, or man and the appellant order. The only in that another is in, Sadiga Saleem

the appellant were with murder. The the application of the woman, ordered s. The woman was to give evidence that frightened unwilling man, and she was to make sure that tried a jury. He great- was the frightened tator of murder and

The woman's jury heard the appellant, last jury never saw woman.

it for the appellant from the ultimate at such a case it to do justice to us if there were

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produced a situation

in which it proved impossible for his client to have a fair trial; that the judge wrongly excluded certain evidence, including a tape recording of a family conference, while the woman proclaimed her intention to kill the man who was murdered; and that in all the circumstances the verdict of guilty against his client was unsafe and unsatisfactory.

On November 1, 1975, the police found the dead body of a young man, identified as Rashid, in a flat near Birmingham. Death had been caused by two stab wounds in the left side of his chest. The pathologist was of the opinion that the man when stabbed had been lying on the floor unconscious after being partially strangled by a woman, died tightly round his neck. His tongue had been slit while he was still alive, though unconscious. There were no signs of a struggle.

The judge never finally ruled upon the submission.

The trial then proceeded. In the event, no evidence was elicited at the trial, no admissions made by the woman or by the appellant, nor did the woman visit Rashid at the flat. They were jointly indicted. Before arraignment, counsel for the woman applied for separate trials. The application was not opposed by the appellant. The judge exercised his discretion in favour of separate trials.

The decision to order separate trials. Only in very exceptional cases was it wise to order separate trials when two or more were jointly charged with committing the same offence. The present case was an lesson of the risks. Lord Goddard, Lord Chief Justice, indicated in R v. *Grondfeldzki* [1946] 1 KB 389 that the appellate court was only concerned that the judge's decision had caused a miscarriage of justice. In other words, the ultimate question was whether the verdict of guilty was safe and satisfactory, one in all the circumstances, although not one of their Lordships may have been far better for the woman and the appellant to have been tried together. One aspect of the whole picture, but both protagonists would have been under the same roof.

The Crown's admissions and the judge's summing up could have left the jury in no doubt as to the physical participation of the woman in the killing, her motivation, her character, and her hold upon the上诉ant, the appellant. It was not, however, the woman who was available as a witness, her evidence would have helped that aspect of his defence which, without any challenge by her, was put to the jury at his separate trial. The ultimate question for the jury was not the woman's state of mind but the conduct, the state of mind, and intentions of the appellant. Faced with a virgin of a mistress, did he act as a consenting, though reluctant, stooge to her murder of Rashid? Or, was he taken by surprise and too coward to intervene?

Her threats against Rashid, her intentions and her determination to involve the reluctant appellant that the court was satisfied that the appellant murdered Rashid away from his jury, and the appellant at his separate trial had the benefit of the Crown's admission that it was the hand of the woman which killed Rashid. While there might be cases in which an order for separate trials would make a fair trial of the second defendant impossible, the present was not such a case. The judge put those matters plainly to the jury. The court was satisfied that the woman had secured her acquittal by telling lies in the witness box.

The Crown conceded that the act of killing was the act of the woman and not of the appellant. The Crown made a number of formal admissions, including that at a family conference the woman uttered threats against the life of Rashid; the knife used was the property of Sadiga and her husband; at her trial, the woman's son, who was the appellant, also did the killing. The effect of those admissions was to support what otherwise in a jury might have thought a somewhat improbable defence—that a well-built young man in his twenties was so frightened of his mistress (a slight, small woman, according to the evidence) that he stood by,

the woman's acquittal, the appeal's conviction was correct and must stand. Appeal dismissed.

Solicitors: Jones, Grove & Co., Birmingham; DPP.

Tanzanian resignations seen as moral issue

From Our Correspondent

Nairobi, Jan 25

The resignation of two Tanzanian Cabinet ministers and two regional commissioners in a scandal arising from the death or injury of people arrested by the police a year ago is being hailed as a vindication of the country's code of socialist morality in a one-party state.

All four of the people concerned have been at pains to emphasize that they were in no way directly involved in the maltreatment of prisoners arrested after a spate of inter-tribal and mercenary murders in western Tanzania.

They offered their resignations because they accepted ultimate responsibility for the action, police and other officials.

President Nyerere accepted their resignations on the ground of political responsibility, but said he did so with a "heavy heart".

The resignations are a delayed effect of events in the Mwanza and Shinyanga areas, where over a long period scores of murders were carried out by professional killers who were willing to arrange a murder for as little as five cows, or an equivalent amount of cash.

Attention was drawn to the abnormal incidence of murders in the area in 1974 and 1975, and it was after a public outcry against the police for their apparent failure to bring the culprits to justice that widespread (and often indiscriminate) arrests were made.

Primitive methods were used by some of the police and other officials in an effort to secure evidence and convict at least some of the culprits. As a result there were many complaints of torture by the police, and several people died in custody.

This led to the appointment of a commission of inquiry last year on President Nyerere's direction. The publication of the commission's findings has been followed by the resignations of the four men.

The four are Mr Peter Siyovelwa, Minister of State in the President's office; Mr Ali Hassan Mwizzi, Minister for Home Affairs; Mr Marco Mabawa, the Shinyanga regional commissioner; and Mr Peter Abdullah Kisumu, the Mwanza regional commissioner.

The resignations would be regarded as normal in most Western countries, but in Africa it is almost unknown for this kind of thing to happen. President Nyerere said he was accepting the resignations to establish the principle of political responsibility in Tanzania.

Court of Appeal

Teaching a child how to live in harmony with the rest of the world

by Dr Hugh Jolly

Editor, *Teach Your Child*

London SW1

1977. £1.25

Published monthly

by Hamlyn

London NW1

1977. £1.25

Published monthly

by Hamlyn

PARLIAMENT, January 25, 1977

Economy improving but jobless total will stay high—PM

House of Commons

He could not promise that unemployment would be reduced substantially whatever palliatives were introduced during the next few months, the Prime Minister said at question time. But he asked the country to have patience. The economic situation was improving steadily and would continue to do so.

The exchanges on unemployment began when Mrs Margaret Thatcher, Leader of the Opposition (Barnet, Finchley, C), said that the figures announced today illustrated the failure of all the Prime Minister's economic policies and demonstrated that once again the Labour Party was the natural party of unemployment. (Conservative cheers.)

Mr Callaghan—I can only admire the number of Conservative MPs who cheered that question. (Conservative protests)—when I recall that the policies they have been pressing upon the Government would at least double the present level of unemployment. (Labour cheers.)

I agree with Mrs Thatcher that this is not a total that should be tolerated. I do not think it possible that this figure will be reduced for some time as long as we are trying to squeeze inflation out of the economy. This, unfortunately, is one of the consequences which we have to face. Mrs Thatcher should assist by explaining to the country that if we are to overcome inflation then difficult measures have to be followed and the Government intend to continue to do it.

Mrs Thatcher—The fact that the Labour Government refused to take responsibility for its policies has led to large unemployment now. (Conservative cheers.) He may run away from responsibility now, but he cannot run away from the facts. (Renewed Conservative cheers.)

Mr Callaghan—I have no intention of running away from the facts. If I may say so, there is a heavy share of considerable responsibility for the present level of unemployment. (Conservative protest.) She was a member of the administration which allowed the M3 figure to rise to unprecedented high levels and she has been working her way through the economy for some years. She knows this.

It has been reduced; it is coming down fast. This is why we can look forward with some confidence to a considerable improvement in our economic prospects, to increasing

exports, to a balance in our payments and to the regeneration of British industry, and all that will lead to more employment.

Mr Eric Heffer (Liverpool, Walton, Lab)—On these benches and in the Labour Party there is deep and growing concern at the level of unemployment. Would he indicate just when the Cabinet are going to do something with the question of unemployment? By intervening, giving public works schemes, policies for import substitution and much else in relation to this question? We cannot tolerate this for much longer.

Mr Callaghan—He is right in saying that there is genuine concern throughout the country about this matter. The Cabinet and I undertake intensive consultations in southern Africa with a view to laying the foundations for an agreement on an interim government.

In particular, I asked him to develop with the parties some new and positive ideas, including our own role in the future which

Eric Heffer—We have had some help. All have helped. I was looking at the figures the other day. It is reckoned that during this year they will assist some 200,000 young people.

I cannot promise Mr Heffer, nor the party, nor the House, nor the country, that unemployment will be reduced substantially whatever palliatives are introduced during the next few months. I cannot possibly say that it must be undertaken.

But I say to the country that if they have patience then the economic situation is steadily improving and will continue so to do.

Mr James Prior, Opposition spokesman on employment (London, E.C.4, Lab)—The slogan "Back to work" in October, 1974, was the slogan of the Labour Party and the Labour Government had got unemployment down to 3 million. The Prime Minister has the same bug to try to pass the blame off on to someone else?

Mr Callaghan—What I said was that Mrs Thatcher should share the responsibility. I did not pass it off on her. I say she should share it. She should. Mr Prior. He was a member of the administration which allowed the M3 figure to rise to unprecedented high levels and she has been working her way through the economy for some years. She knows this.

It has been reduced; it is coming down fast. This is why we can look forward with some confidence to a considerable improvement in our economic prospects, to increasing

Serious setback caused by Mr Smith's inability to face reality

Yesterday's events represented a serious setback to all their hopes for peace in Rhodesia. Mr Anthony Crosland, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said in a statement:

He reported that it was with a deep sense of disappointment that they learned yesterday that Mr Smith alone of the parties, had rejected the idea that the Government had put to him, even as a basis for further negotiation.

Mr Crosland said: "As I told the House on January 14, I informed Mr Richard to go to Geneva with the Geneva conference and to undertake intensive consultations in southern Africa with a view to laying the foundations for an agreement on an interim government.

In particular, I asked him to develop with the parties some new and positive ideas, including our own role in the future which

Eric Heffer—We have had some help. All have helped. I was looking at the figures the other day. It is reckoned that during this year they will assist some 200,000 young people.

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proposals would have led to closer and Mandelson rule. But if there is such a risk, it is much more likely to be created by his rejection of these proposals. He has once more shown his inability to face reality.

We have to accept that this present round of discussions is at an end. We now need—all of us—to take stock and to make a cool appraisal of the new situation.

We have instructed Mr Richard to remain in southern Africa for four more days to discuss the latest developments with some of the parties. He will then return and report to me with a full assessment of the attitudes and expectations of those concerned.

Yesterday's events represent a serious setback to all our hopes for peace in Rhodesia. We must now explore intensively all my options to end this impasse. Our goal remains a peaceful and orderly transfer to majority rule in Rhodesia.

Mr John Davies, chief Opposition spokesman on foreign and Commonwealth affairs (Kingswood, C)—Does he realize with what deep sense of misgiving his ministerial colleagues feel about this?

The problems we face are of our own making. The Opposition feel that the Government's handling of these matters has been both belligerent and ineffective. (Conservative cheers.)

A unique opportunity was afforded by the Kissinger negotiations and we believe the inconclusive nature of the Geneva conference and the apparently inadequate authority given to the principal spokesman for this country has led very much to what we face.

The Opposition are deeply disturbed by his statements of simple discredibility on the original basis of the Kissinger proposals which embodied what constituted the great breakthrough—the acceptance in principle of a form of majority rule.

Tribute should be paid to the tremendous efforts of Mr Richard to get a settlement but the Kissinger proposals represented to Mr Smith as being merely put sensible proposals to Mr Smith from a plenipotentiary with full powers and expect immediately to get a settlement.

There would be no credibility if Mr Smith now tried with a collection of chiefs, to form what he might call a genuine partnership. Mr Smith was not going about the best way of keeping Marxists out of Rhodesia. He would not necessarily be African but the world certainly be armed.

Mr Crook—Endorse everything that is done to break the deadlock. That is what we are trying to do.

It does not seem to the Opposition that a "cool reappraisal" meets the needs. Before Christmas Mr Crook made clear that in the event of a sudden unsatisfactory proposal he was prepared to go to Africa.

Is that now the Foreign Minister's intention? Can he assure us that the visit of Vice President Mondale will be used to try to derive a line of policy which will not be based on this kind of proposal of uncertainty without the implications it has both for Rhodesians and Africans generally?

Mr Crook—Our policy has never been belligerent. After 11 years of a problem which has baffled both Labour and Conservative Governments it would have been absurd to avoid it. Would not it be better for the President of Zambia and the Prime Minister of South Africa once again to convene the conference of all interested parties to get a possible settlement?

Mr Arthur Bottomley (Teesside, Middlesbrough, Lab)—Can I ask Mr Crook again yet again to get further involved in Rhodesia?

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Mr Crook—The temptation to do it is great for most MPs. The reason we became involved was first of all in calling the Rhodesia conference and then closing it and sending Mr Richard to Africa.

Mr Richard Luce (Shoreham, C)—

The notion that there was a Kissinger deal was inaccurate because the only deal that could be made was not one between the Anglo-Americans and the Rhodesian Government; the only deal that could possibly be made was one between the white and black Rhodesians.

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Mr Richard Luce (Shoreham, C)—

Unless we were involved, no negotiations would have taken place and took the view, and the majority of MPs took the view that we did have a moral and constitutional obligation, at any rate, to get involved to that extent.

Mr Reginald Maudling (Barnet, Chipping Barnet, C)—Did Mr Richard make any serious attempt at all to get the agreement of the conference to the Kissinger proposals and is it not true that the breakdown of the conference is not at all the fault of Mr Smith?

What happened now was a matter for discussion when Mr Richard came back.

On the last point, it would be something that would be discussed with Mr Maudling and it would be wrong for anyone to expect they would find a simple quick basis for a settlement in a matter of hours.

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Mr Richard Luce (Shoreham, C)—

Since at the end of the day only the African and European powers of Rhodesia can avoid a path towards brutal self-destruction, will he consider coordinating a Western approach to warn the Soviet Union and the Cubans that they must keep out of this dispute or the consequences for East-West relations might be bad?

Mr Crosland—This danger is one of the dominant facts in the situation. I do not doubt that we shall have the most close discussions about this danger with the United States administration in particular.

Mr Crosland—Mr Maudling's proposals over the last few months would have brought negotiations to an end far quicker because last July he advocated the resumption of sovereignty by Britain over Rhodesia. This additional danger has been created by Mr Smith's rejection of them.

Mr Martin Flannery (Sheffield, Hillsborough, Lab)—Many on our side do not agree that the racist government of South Africa has a large part to play in the situation in southern Africa.

Mr Crosland—We have to face facts and one is that South Africa will inevitably, whether we like it or not, have an important part to play in peacekeeping to the problems of southern Africa.

Mr Anthony Fell (Warrington, C)—This latest action will be known as the great double cross.

Mr Crosland—Most MPs think that over the last 11 years successive Governments have tried to find a solution to what is probably the outstanding racial problem in southern Africa. Total passivity would have been disgraceful.

Mr Robert Hughes (North Aberdeenshire, Lab)—Has he seen Dr Richard's speech to the House over the last 11 years? British Government have fallen into a series of gross and predictable misjudgments over Rhodesia?

Mr Crosland—If we are to avoid a long, drawn out and costly conflict, some resolution and quick action will have to be taken, including use of force on our own behalf or through the United Nations.

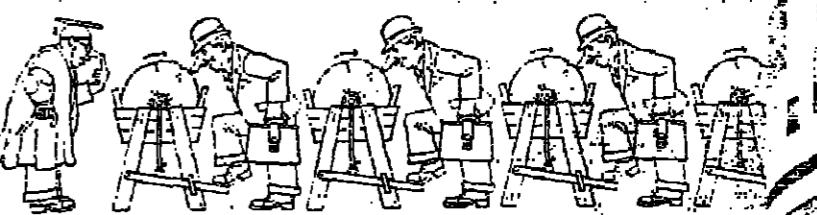
Mr Crosland—I do not think the use of force on our own part—the dispatch of British troops to Rhodesia—is a possibility. I do not think it is a practical possibility for one moment.

I would not rule out any possibility in the future but politicians, Foreign Secretaries and Opposition spokesmen should be reluctant to accept it. I think that we have reached the point of no return.

We are playing for such high stakes in southern Africa that if there was to be an opportunity in future for resumed negotiations I do not see how we should not take advantage of it.



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Further particulars from the Headmaster, The Minster School, Southwell, Nottinghamshire NG23 6HC.

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The essence of the BEC system is that boys and girls leaving school at 16 or 18 and not proceeding to full-time further or higher edu-

cation can none the less aim at qualifications that will (1) give them a rung on the ladder to professional qualifications, or (2) provide knowledge and skills for those planning careers in business or public administration. The accent is on vocational and the use of plain English.

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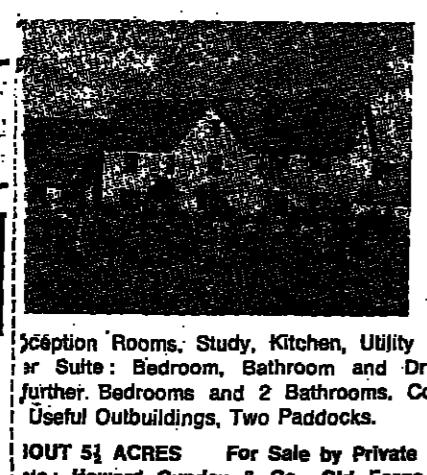
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Doomsday watchers are on the wrong track and talking themselves into a collision

The arms race, not a Russian blitz on Europe, is the real threat

Moscow

Last autumn General Alexander Haig startled the House of Lords from postprandial torpor with a verbal bombshell. According to Lord Chalfont (*The Times*, November 8) the blockbuster was the disclosure "that the great increase in Soviet strength, mobility and fire power were creating a situation in which a Soviet attack without prior reinforcement was becoming for the Russians 'a more and more attractive option'".

Lord Chalfont called his commentary on General Haig's discourse: "The general alert we cannot afford to ignore." And the moral he drew was: "If you employ an expensive, intelligent dog, it is well to pay attention when he barks."

One wonders how General Haig likes the canine companion and the suggestion that an interest of conflict was involved. And is the bark worse than the bite?

Chalfont himself has been barking warnings of impending Soviet attack on Western Europe year in and year out for years, like a latter-day Cerberus or Cassandra. Last March he sounded the alarm under an eight column page scarehead (*The Times*, March 15, 1976): "The West must act while it still has the chance."

Citing what he said was a senior Nato planners' study, Chalfont supplied graphic details of Russian strategy for reaching the Rhine in 48 hours using only conventional weapons. He even supplied a map showing just how many Soviet divisions would be deployed against what objectives, as if he had eavesdropped on a meeting of the Soviet General Staff. (The study was subsequently disavowed by responsible Nato sources.)

Almost reluctantly Chalfont allowed that given the present relaxed political climate the Russians might not use force against the west in the immediate future. He then added: "But military planners tend to have longer memories than their political masters. And they do not forget the classic definition of Soviet policy enunciated in the 1930s by

Dmitri Mannilovsky."

The gist of this policy, according to Chalfont, was by means of pacific movements of Lords from postprandial torpor with a verbal bombshell.

According to Lord Chalfont (*The Times*, November 8) the blockbuster was the disclosure "that the great increase in Soviet strength, mobility and fire power were creating a situation in which a Soviet attack without prior reinforcement was becoming for the Russians 'a more and more attractive option'".

The repetitious warnings con-

tinue however. Almost echoing the western hawks, Soviet Admiral of the Fleet Sergei Gorshkov recently justified his naval build-up as follows: "In the post-war period the imperialists, pursuing the Cold War against the Commonwealth of Socialist States, embarked on intense preparations for a new world war. The threat to our country's security from the ocean approaches became increasingly apparent... under the circumstances the one correct solution for the country's security problem could only be to create conditions that would confront the western military circles with the same problems they sought to impose on us. First of all it was necessary to force the Pentagon to recognize that the ocean had totally lost its former role of protective barrier." (S. G. Gorshkov, *Soviet Power and the State, Voennizdat*, 1976.)

At the anniversary of the revolution military parade, last November, Defence Minister Dmitri Ustinov declared: "The successes of détente arose from the stubborn opposition of aggressive imperialist circles. One can confidently say to them that the Soviet army and navy stand firm in defence of the revolution, socialism and peace."

In assessing the Soviet

defence posture one should

remember that the Kremlin

leaders reckon with potential

threats on two fronts, separated

by half the earth's circumference,

in Europe and the Far East

Given the present Sino-Soviet confrontation, with

Chinese spokesmen periodically

sounding off on the inevitability

of war with the USSR, and

China exploding ever bigger

nuclear test bombs not far from

the Soviet border, the Far East

would seem to present the

greater danger.

In a file somewhere in the

planning division of the Soviet

Defence Ministry there is probably a nightmare scenario wherein China's limitless manpower and Japan's advanced technology coalesce to reimagine Japan's greater Asia prosperity sphere project on a Sino-Japanese partnership basis.

Since then, despite sharp

differences of principle and

policy, East-West contacts have increased and cooperation in many fields continues to expand.

Asia would then be heavily

tipped against the USSR and

formidable backing would be

provided for Japan's insistence

on the return of the four Soviet-occupied small northern islands,

and for China's sweeping territorial claims in Siberia. Hence Moscow's preoccupation with American economic priorities and sensitivity to any hint of Sino-Japanese rapprochement.

Another source of almost ob-

sessive Kremlin concern is the

dynamicism and scope of Ameri-

can technological research,

especially in weaponry. The re-

finement and sophistication of

which they have yet to match.

They seek to compensate for

the quality gap by quantity. But

this is only effective as long

as the United States does not

score some new major break-

through.

A sample of this was the ex-

tent to which the advent of the

cruise missile has disrupted the

Salt negotiations. This con-

cern prompted Mr Brezhnev's

call in June, 1975, for an interna-

tional agreement barring re-

search on development of new,

more frightful, weapons of mass

destruction.

At the same time Kennan

also believes the Soviet leaders

are cognisant of the perils of

continued nuclear competition

and that, for all their exaggerated military efforts, they fully realize the suicidal nature of

such a war. Moreover, they

have too many pressing internal

problems to risk a major

tremendous risks. "To which

must be added that a curious

streak of friendliness and

sometimes admiring curiosity

that runs through the Soviet popula-

tion, which has never failed to

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reason why the composer who

has surely approached more

close to the divine than any

artist in history should not have

the quickest elevation from Vener

able to Saint in all history !

As for his Saint's name, he



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NQU'S NORM

over the corporate state town to carry up the al economy there is at the feast, the consumer, after all for him that all economic activity exists; and it is sovereignty over the allocation of economic resources, in capital and labour, that secured only by competitive markets in which the price system is allowed to operate

The fundamental interest of consumers is that economic activity—investment, production, distribution, employment, trade—should dance to a tune played by the consumer and the consumer alone. The pipe on which he plays that tune of consumer preference is the market place; and the mechanism whereby the tune is amplified into the deepest recesses of business and commercial activity is prices and profits.

If "holding prices down" means administrative control of price increases, then beyond question it directly frustrates the exercise of consumer sovereignty, muting the signals of his preference and blunting the incentive to producers to comply. If holding prices down merely means avoiding inflation, then this is secondary as a specific interest of consumers to the unimpeded adjustment of prices relative to one another.

If, of course, "holding down prices", means holding down prices relative to incomes, then it is merely an expression of everyone's desire for a higher standard of living. Insofar as any prices policy can contribute to

that end, which depends essentially on the real value of national output, the best prices policy is the one which encourages the greatest efficiency in the use of national resources, namely once again prices freely determined by competitive markets.

So where does a nil norm for pay fit into the strategy from the consumer's point of view? The answer is that it does not.

To be sure consumers are in many cases also the workers and producers who already are or will become unemployed or bankrupt if labour costs are not reduced in relation to the given (by the IMF agreement) total flow of spending in the economy. But as consumers they still lose from pay and price rigidity.

If there is to be a norm at all, then the best norm from the point of view of workers is a nil norm (unless a negative norm or a norm so flexible as not to be a norm are to be considered). It will boost employment, output and living standards more than a positive norm. But the economic costs of any norm, in frustrating the adjustment of the labour market and therefore of the economy to changing patterns of demand at home and abroad, almost certainly exceed the benefits of lower unemployment, at least by the third year of any incomes policy. The worst of all worlds would be a high positive norm, although this would probably best suit the political convenience of those who will in practice be only political or even moral" as a reason for not pursuing monetary policy, seems to me to discard altogether a sure and tested method of dealing with inflation.

How can it be either good political or moral sense to create too much money, and then talk with the unions about full employment from a position of total weakness? I see nothing immoral in pursuing a monetary policy which, by securing low interest rates, will in time create more jobs and contain inflation.

I readily concede that the jargon of monetarists, with constant references to M1, M3 and DCE, unfortunately gives the impression of being too concerned with some form of higher algebra rather than the human problems of inflation. But to say, as Reginald Maudling does, that our "problems so often described as economic, are really political or even moral" is to suggest that this is true of both governments. In my view the evidence of the consequences of making too much money available is irrefutable.

I am, yours faithfully,
PETER HORDERN,
House of Commons.
January 25.

AIN'S STORMY PATH TO DEMOCRACY

One who knew Spain well ever have thought that transition from Franco's rule to democracy would be simple. It is true that memory of the civil war or the great majority of citizens, as a powerful unit against extreme or active political behaviour, we, too, that some of the young causes of the civil have by now been muted or greatly reduced importance: for instance economic backwardness of country, the cultural backwardness of much of its population, the existence of a mass of crusted and despotic landlords and landless labourers, the intense hostility in the Church and the Left.

Other perennial Spanish issues remain: the existence right and a Left which do not each other to accept democratic rules, the existence of regional nationalisms virulent if anything by forty years of Italian centralist rule—of violence as a means of self-expression, and at some uncertainty about

the readiness of the armed forces, after forty years of a regime which drew its authority from them, to accept a genuinely neutral role in Spanish politics.

To these must be added other new factors born of the civil war itself and its aftermath: the existence of an anti-democratic Right, small in numbers but firmly entrenched in the power structure and ready to defend its privileges by almost any means; the influence gained by the Communist Party during the long years of clandestine struggle, and the almost paranoid reaction which this provokes among some of the Franco regime's supporters, conditioned as they are by forty years of official warnings that communism (coupled at times with freemasonry) was the inevitable and catastrophic alternative to the status quo; and the discontent caused by a faltering in Spain's economic progress, which by ill luck coincides with the end of the dictatorship.

All these considered, it is not too surprising that, in spite of the widespread conviction that a democratic evolution is needed, in spite of the evident determination of the King and his government to bring about that evolution, in spite of the support they

are receiving from other West European and Atlantic countries, in spite even of the remarkable loyalty and neutrality shown so far by the armed forces, Spain fourteen months after Franco's death is still plagued by political violence.

It is distressing that such violence is still possible on a considerable scale, but it is encouraging to see that the Government is now prepared to act against violent extremists of the Right as well as of the Left, and that the democratic opposition now credits the Government with genuinely democratic and peaceful intentions, even to the point of being prepared to make a joint appeal with it to halt the violence. It is even encouraging in a way to see that some of the authors of violence are not even Spaniards, since it suggests the extreme Right is so weak that it has had to summon assistance from the more promising political seedbeds of Latin America. But certainly the last thing Spain needs or wants is to become again the battleground of opposing international ideologies, as it was in the 1930s. Spaniards have enough problems of their own to solve without that.

Yours faithfully,
PETER HORDERN,
House of Commons.
January 24.

ANOMALY WORTH KEEPING

A near thing that the City of London did not absorb the London County Council in 1890s. A Royal Commission proposed it, but the City kept on the idea. There have been a certain logic in having County Hall on Guildhall, and Goodwin in a lace choker stage-coach, but it passed. Now it is the hat seeks to absorb the being concerned both to up an administrative and to lay hands on the se wealth of the City's fiscal ratepayers. City is without dispute an in the pattern of local government. It is an unfashionable panoply armaments and ceremonies, a police force with a mile-patch, and the means of being a Lord Mayor whose approximation to democratic process can hardly be led outside the trade movement. Further, it stills ratepayers who do not thin its boundaries to vote on a property qualification. Its resources, both inate holdings and in ratable are a natural object of speculation for a GLC stratum beset by enforced cuts and a secular of the rate base in Inner. Lessive programmes of government reform have a City's formal status un-

changed. The 1960 Royal Commission which fundamentally reformed the administration of London strongly recommended that it should not be touched, principally because the traditional aspects of its activities made such a stimulating spectacle. The spectacle would perhaps not be much diminished if less actual power went along with the turtle soup. There is certainly room for change, particularly, perhaps, in the separate status of the City Police—but essentially the government of the City is anomalous because the City itself is an anomaly. There is nothing else like it in Britain. Only about 5,000 people live in it, but nearly half a million work there. In a place that is so overwhelmingly one for doing business in rather than for dwelling in, the arguments against property qualifications for voting carry less force than usual.

But the GLC is not so much concerned that the City should run more for the benefit of the 5,000. It has the more numerous residents of Southwark and Tower Hamlets in mind. Certainly if the antiquated palaver of the City obstructed the fair distribution of London's wealth, it would be hard to defend. But the evidence does not indicate that it does. It is true that the City rate call is relatively low. It is argued that if it were as high as it is in

European contribution

From Mr Tam Dalyell, MP for West Lothian (Labour)

Sir, David Wood suggests (January 10) that John Prescott, MP, would not touch the EEC with the proverbial barge-pole.

The reality is that even those of us who have a definite commitment in favour of the concept of the European Community cannot deny that Mr Prescott has made a constructive and active, if critical, contribution to the work of the European Parliament. It follows, not at all, that the election of Mr Prescott should be taken as a piece of evidence of British coolness to the EEC.

Yours etc.,
RICHARD BLAUSTEN,
MARTYN MARRIOTT,
The Bow Group,
240 High Holborn, WC1.
January 25.

the current action being taken by the drivers is a restrictive practice against the public interest, and yet no legal action of the very specific type that can be taken against companies could be taken against the men or their union.

If the principles enshrined in the RTP Act are indeed principles, they should apply to trade unions and groups of employees as much as to companies or other trading and professional bodies. Is it too much to ask for equality before the law? If we don't have it, the law will be seen to be biased and will come in to disrupt. That would not be satisfactory for any of us.

Yours faithfully,
E. W. HARPER,
Managing Director,
Harper & Tunstall Ltd,
Denington,
Wellingborough,
Northamptonshire.

So Mr Duckworth's assertion that crime is optional needs qualification. People can choose, but they

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**Creating too much money**

From Mr Peter Hordern, MP for Horsham and Crawley (Conservative)

Sir, Nobody is better fitted than Reginald Maudling (Letters, January 22) to put the case for those who believe that incomes policy is the only effective way of controlling inflation. Nobody has held that view with greater consistency or with more humanity.

He knows that his views on monetary matters are not shared by some of his Conservative colleagues in the House today. When he was Chancellor 14 years ago, matters were very different. I do not think he ever mentioned monetary policy in his Budget speeches.

He knows that his views on

Worker directors in industry

From the President of the Engineering Employers' Federation

Sir, The publication, at long last, of the already familiar Bullock Report will give the opportunity to debate the whole subject of industrial democracy—which regrettably is not a feature of the report. I am concerned that we should now set aside political motivations and base this debate on real and sympathetic understanding of industry. I appeal, therefore, to all who feel moved to contribute to remember that:

1. The committee, through its terms of reference, was not allowed to consider whether worker directors are desirable.

2. The signatories to the majority report have never served on boards of directors. They represent the views of some academics and part of the TUC; they do not represent any employers; and several prominent trade unionists have already stated their disagreement.

3. Comparisons between Britain and Germany are not valid unless the fundamental differences between them are clearly understood; for instance codetermination in Germany has been evolving for 50 years and there are 16 industry based unions in Germany compared with 483 craft unions in the United Kingdom.

4. Far from improving the performance of industry or the lot of those who work in it, the huge volume of employment and industrial legislation passed in recent years has merely diverted resources from productive work. More legislation introduced without the agreement of both sides, will worsen matters.

5. Many companies, and most successful ones, already operate participation schemes as a natural element of good management;

6. There is little evidence that the nation wants to see a further great extension of union power.

If the Bullock Report stimulates a calm and constructive debate it will do no harm. If that debate leads to more participation and better understanding within companies it will do considerable good. But if the report is easily translated into law as it is, will not do, for it will then that of other unions legislation such as the Industrial Relations Act.

With similar results?

I am, yours faithfully,

A. D. PHILLIPS,
18 Parish Ghyll Drive,
Ilkley,
West Yorkshire.
January 23.

From Mr A. D. Phillips

Sir, It seems entirely apt that the Bullock Committee of Inquiry into Industrial Democracy, sitting in an atmosphere of total disagreement, non-cooperation and non-communication, fails to respect or even consider the point of view of the other, should give birth to a report which proposes boardroom representation exactly analogous to the composition of the committee itself.

With similar results?

I am, yours faithfully,

A. D. PHILLIPS,
18 Parish Ghyll Drive,
Ilkley,
West Yorkshire.
January 24.

From Mr Robin Skelton

Sir, Having worked as Chairman of the Law Society's working party considering the reference to the Bullock Committee of the past two years and in the light of that committee's terms of reference, I am not surprised that its recommendations are controversial and that there should be minority views.

May I, as one who is not involved directly but who advises industry, make a plea that common sense should prevail and that time should be given for careful thought on all the many legal and other facets of the recommendations.

I regret to read that the CBI and others are about to take up entrenched positions. They should think again and "cool it" in the interests of all of us. Surely the country's economic and financial future comes before sectional interests, as "united we stand, divided we fall".

Yours etc.,

ROBIN J. SKELTON,
Ship Canal House,
King Street,
Manchester.
January 25.

Canterbury and Rome

From Mr Maurice Chandler

Sir, Your leading article "Canterbury and Rome" (January 24) is most welcome, particularly your suggestion of a sacramental intercommunion between Anglican and Roman Catholic congregations which would give satisfaction.

At a press conference to launch the Report on the Agreed Statement on Authority, the Anglican Bishop of Osney, Peter Leigh, is reported to have said that he would now like to see official approval for "a degree of sacramental sharing" between the two Churches and he later inquired: "Has the time arrived for baptising officially a degree of greater communion?"

Finally, I must say that what was debatable many years ago seems to me now much more certain. For where has deficit financing led us? Not just to inflation and stagnation, but to a massive increase in the share of our national product taken by the state. What was 42 per cent 16 years ago is now nearly 50 per cent and growing. This may be what Socialists want. How can it be right for Conservatives?

Yours faithfully,

MARCUS BINNEY,
Chairman,
SAVE Britain's Heritage,
3 Park Square West, NW1.
January 22.

Affairs Correspondent, Clifford Longley, to task for describing the order of the Church of North India as "a watered down kind of episcopacy" (January 24). Surely Rome as much as any of the Churches of the Reformation would nowadays agree that we enrich rather than dilute episcopacy by making it less authoritarian and more subject to synodical and consiliar consultation. Whatever hierarchical authority may have come as a result of varied historical circumstances, to be vested in pope, archbishop or bishop, the concept of bishop-in-council has a claim to be both the most primitive and the most viable for the future.

I hesitate to differ from my friend, the Bishop of Norwich, but would suggest that, in his comments on the Roman-Anglican Agreed Statement on Authority in the Church, he is thinking too much of the image which Rome has presented to the world in the past and not enough of Rome, including the Papacy, in viva since Vatican II towards new patterns and new modes of thought. The Agreed Statement may well prove to be more important for what it does not say, i.e. for traditional stances which it does not take, than for what it actually says, which, as in the case of the few Propositions, must be regarded only as an opening gambit of dialogue.

Yours faithfully,

MARCUS BINNEY,
Chairman,
SAVE Britain's Heritage,
3 Park Square West, NW1.
January 22.

The new 'Express'

From the Managing Director, Beaverbrook Newspapers

Sir, We are glad to have the good wishes of your rather jaundiced columnist PHS (January 25). But he sounds sceptical about the appeal of Howard Hughes to young readers.

The view of our circulation manager is much closer to the bookstalls.

Reporting that the Daily Express

is selling very well, he says of the Howard Hughes story that younger readers are showing a particularly keen interest. In fact they made up a large part of 600,000 new readers

on Monday.

And I am glad to tell your sceptic

that market research on a first

stage reader more likely to buy

the new style Daily Express against only 4 per cent less likely to buy.

Perhaps PHS, who witnessed the

eclipse of the Mirror's Sun, has not yet recovered full use of his vision.

Yours truly,

CHARLES WINTOUR,
Managing Director, Beaverbrook
Newspapers Limited,
121 Fleet Street, EC4.
January 25.

Temple Bar

From Mr W. Hollis

Sir, There has been correspondence in your columns on financing the removal back to London of Temple Bar. Who financed its removal to Potters Bar (Letters, The Times, January 12)?

The last time I passed it, it was

mouldering at the junction of Bury

Green Road and Theobalds Lane in Cheshunt—some miles from Potters Bar.

Yours bewilderedly,

W. HOLLIS,
2 Bell Lane,

Brockhouse,
Hertfordshire.

January 14.

Finally, if Mr Duckworth has

evidence that six-month sentences

are any more effective than three-

month ones, I hope he will tell me;

it allows them to learn criminal

techniques

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ESSOR R. A.
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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY JANUARY 26 1977

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

NCR
Computers & Terminals
NCR Limited, 206 Marylebone Road, London NW1

g banks drop base rates 1 pc as first step road to cheaper loans

Whitmore
Correspondent
for banks took the first
step on the road
significantly cheaper
rates by announcing a
new base lending rates
to 13 per cent.

A chip companies this
in a cut in borrowing
from 15 to 14 per cent
for most personal
it will mean a 1 per
in the rates charged
drafts, bringing the
overdraft costs down
19 per cent to a band
per cent.

ing well, the banks'
in lending rates
only the first of a
cuts over the coming
is the level of interest
general continues to
sibly with a further
the Bank of England's
lending rate this Fri-

ere is no sign that yes-
cur in bank lending
any scope of short-
for the home buyer
the extent that it
the pressure for a
increase in mortgage
man Griggs, secretary
the Building Societies
described yester-
by the banks as
in general terms".

But he stressed that present
building society rates had
not been lifted fully in line with the
general rise in interest rates
last autumn, with results
already seen in the drastic fall
in the amounts of new money
invested in building societies
during November and December.

Mr Griggs added that, while
he believed the further decline in
the general level of interest
rates would leave the building
society looking extremely com-
petitive investment vehicles by
late spring, the interest rate
was still a matter of concern.

The inflow of funds during
January, though well up on the
previous two months, was still
disappointing.

One of the key figures in
determining any switch of funds
away from the banks to the
building societies is likely to
be the interest rate offered by
the banks on three-month
deposits of over £10,000.

Recently, this has been
appreciably above the building
societies' grossed up rate of
return of 12 per cent—7.8 per
cent net; but it now seems
likely to drift down to around
the same level.

On deposits of less than
£10,000 the clearing banks have
dropped their deposit rates by
1.5 per cent to 9.5 per cent.

But though this represents a

widening of the margin between
their borrowing and lending
rates, the additional half-point
spread does not in fact add to
profitability when interest rates
are falling: it merely acts as a
cushion against significant
lower profitability.

A second reason for the deci-
sion to drop deposit rates by
1.5 per cent is that the banks
are not especially keen to
attract new funds at the
moment.

The Bank of England
"corset", imposed last autumn
to restrict the growth of the
banks' interest bearing liabilities
(and, therefore, the money
supply) is already stretching at
the seams. And the banking
figures for the month to mid-
February are going to be the
first in a crucial three-month
series that will determine just
how well the corset is working.

The cut in base rates follows
specifically from last week's
bigger than expected cut in the
Bank of England's minimum
lending rate (from 14 to 13.5
per cent) and the consequent
fall in money market rates.

Although the Bank of Eng-
land was again signaling
restraint yesterday by lending to
the discount houses at MLR
on a seven-day basis, the market
is confident that MLR will
be cut further on Friday, pos-
sibly by half a point.

Financial Editor, page 19

BR Pension Funds bid for Standard Trust

By Adrienne Gileson

British Rail Pension Funds
yesterday announced that they
wished to enter into discussions
with the board of the medium-
sized investment trust, Standard
Trust, with a view to making
cash offers for the shares. The
move, which follows some weeks
of discussions between the
advisers on each side, sent Standard
Trust's shares up by 9.5p
to 124.5p.

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Unions in shipbuilding conference: Leaders of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions (above) who met Mr Varley (front row centre), Secretary of State for Industry, and his ministerial colleagues yesterday. Their discussions were a follow-up of earlier meetings of the full tripartite committee, which includes Whitehall officials and members of the organizing committee, considering the establishment of a state holding company for those shipbuilding in which the Government already has a financial stake. Such a holding company would embrace wholly-owned state companies like Sunderland Shipbuilders and Govan Shipbuilders, as well as Cammel Laird, in which the Government has a 50 per cent stake.

Report sees craftsmen shortage in year ahead as apprenticeships cut

By Kenneth Owen

Because of a fall in the number of people completing apprentice training, there will be a shortage of craftsmen this year, and in 1978, unless there is a substantial measure of redeployment and better utilization of scarce skills.

This is one conclusion in a report^{*} published today, by a joint committee of the Manpower Service Commission and the National Economic Development Office.

In recent years, the report says, the number of people completing apprentice training fell from an average of 15,000 a year in the early 1970s to an expected average of under 10,500 in the next few years. This is barely enough to make up for expected promotions of craftsmen, let alone other forms of "wastage".

As well as trends in apprenticeships, the committee looked at earnings in engineering, and at the loss of skilled workers from the engineering industry.

Earnings of skilled workers in engineering, they found, have declined relative to those of unskilled workers since 1967. The percentage differential for skilled workers is now lower than it has been at any time in the past 20 years.

Differentials have declined in all sectors of engineering and in all regions. The extent of the decline is not related directly to the degree of shortage of skilled labour.

Worse outlook for builders

By Ronald Emmer

Worsening of the present recession in the construction industry is forecast today by the building and civil engineering economic development committee of the National Economic Development Office.

New construction output is expected to decline by 8 per cent this year, compared with 1976, and by a further 4 per cent in 1978.

The joint forecasting committee further predicts that the

formation would not require any new legislation and could be implemented through the existing provisions of Industry Act legislation. Union leaders consider that the Government will have to take positive steps urgently to arrest a deteriorating situation in world shipbuilding markets where overcapacity is threatening the future of many yards and thousands of jobs. A state holding company, it is argued, could act as a bridge until such time as the Government is able to push through its controversial legislation for nationalizing Britain's shipbuilding and repairing industries. At the same time the company could act as a medium through which new orders could be channelled in advance of the setting up of the planned new state shipbuilding

organization, British Shipbuilders. Although there appear to be few difficulties in setting up an interim state holding company, provision would have to be made for dealing with the problems created by other companies which encountered difficulties and appealed to the Government for aid while still outside the holding company.

But union leaders, along with shipbuilding employers, are pressing for an interim strategy in advance of nationalization, geared particularly to gaining much-needed new orders. Mr Varley and his colleagues are at present studying a number of possibilities including direct shipyard subsidies and improved credit terms for United Kingdom owners placing orders with British yards and orders from nationalized industries. But there

is a reluctance in Whitehall for Britain to act unilaterally since EEC approval would be necessary and the Commission is at present involved in framing rescue measures.

Mr Kaufman, Minister of State for Industry, is shortly to have discussions with his counterparts in Germany and France on the shipbuilding issue and a meeting of top civil servants from all EEC countries is scheduled to take place in Brussels next month, aimed at approving a set of aid measures. In the short term, United Kingdom yards can expect some orders placed under last month's Anglo-Polish agreement and there is hope among some union leaders that a recent visit to the United States by a Whitehall official could produce further orders.

UNEMPLOYMENT

The following are the monthly figures for Great Britain released by the Department of Employment yesterday:

	Total unadjusted 000s	Seasonally adjusted 000s	Adult vacs seasonal adjustments 000s
1975			
Jan	742	678	3.0
Feb	757	708	3.1
March	758	728	3.2
April	808	784	3.3
May	813	814	3.6
June	826	858	3.8
July	944	930	4.1
Aug	1,102	956	4.2
Sept	1,097	982	4.3
Oct	1,098	1,044	4.5
Nov	1,120	1,087	4.7
Dec	1,152	1,129	4.9
1976			
Jan	1,252	1,164	5.0
Feb	1,220	1,185	5.1
March	1,235	1,179	5.1
April	1,231	1,186	5.1
May	1,220	1,200	5.2
June	1,278	1,205	5.2
July	1,402	1,257	5.5
Aug	1,440	1,257	5.5
Sept	1,395	1,265	5.5
Oct	1,321	1,253	5.4
Nov	1,316	1,277	5.5
Dec	1,390	1,292	5.6

* Excluding school leavers

† Figures not available

‡ Estimate

REGIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES

The following are the regional unemployment figures, seasonally adjusted, released by the Department of Employment:

Number	Change in 3 months since Octo- ber 1976	monthly average	Rate %
S East	324,700	+3,467	4.3
E Anglia	34,400	+467	5.0
S West	104,800	+1,033	6.6
W Midlands	122,600	+267	5.3
E Midlands	72,400	+700	4.7
Yorks/H'sde	107,400	+67	5.2
N West	189,000	+1,733	6.7
North	98,500	+567	7.4
Wales	76,000	+833	7.3
Scotland	160,900	+3,500	7.4
Gt Britain	1,291,900	+12,933	5.6
N Ireland	53,400	+333	10.0
UK	1,345,300	+13,300	5.7

London underwriters lose £80m on marine and aviation business

By John Brennan

Insurance Correspondent

Marine insurance underwriters are paying for London's pre-eminence in the international market with their third successive year of losses.

The limits this places on premium increases have restricted income growth at a time when capital costs have been rising.

In 1976 a record 208 ships were reported as total losses, a fleet of 1.2 million gross tons. The London market also carried a sizeable proportion of the \$10bn loss caused by North Sea storms early in the year.

And for the second year running the market recorded claims on a major warehouse fire in the Middle East losses this time totalling \$150m.

In the aviation market the year saw the world's worst mid-air collision between a British Airways Trident and an Inex Adria DC-9 over Zagreb, with 176 deaths.

Third party deaths on the ground caused by aircraft increased to 120. And the underwriters hope that the rising trend in casualties will be reflected in more realistic premiums.

Underwriting losses have been increased by exchange rate changes.

Increases in premium income expressed in sterling have masked the fact that true premium growth is not keeping pace with exposure... at a time when the market is being asked to protect ever-rising peak values."

Backing for airport plans

By Ronald Kershaw

Yorkshire and Humberside Development Association has agreed to back the controversial proposed runway extensions at the Leeds/Bradford Airport at the Yeadon.

Dr Iain Skewes, association director, said last night the new runway would make a real contribution to the region's development prospects, and create a new industry by bringing to Yorkshire and Humberside a substantial air-based business at present

handled by Gatwick, Luton and Manchester.

"It is this business that will create many of the 1,700 jobs which the recent government report anticipated for the expanded airport," he said.

Estimates of the cost have been put at £8m, but by the time the scheme is complete it will probably be between £10m and £12m, which will be shared between the three local authorities concerned. Because of past opposition a public inquiry is almost certain to be demanded.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Drax power station ordering: why it is essential to avoid delay

From Mr Mike Thomas, MP for Newcastle upon Tyne East (Labour and Co-operative) and other Northern Members of Parliament

Sir, It is now over a month since the welcome report of the Central Policy Review Staff on the future of the power plant industry was published, the report itself having been presented to the Government at the beginning of November.

We are concerned at the continuing delay in implementing the report, and in particular the crucially important short-term recommendation relating to the completion of the Drax power station.

The industry, strongly supported by the North of England Development Council, has made abundantly clear to the Government the consequences for employment in the region of failure to proceed with the ordering of Drax in time to avoid large-scale redundancies now inevitably being planned.

The report advocates to be agreed in detail before the Drax order is placed.

The need for Drax is urgent.

Yours faithfully,

MIKE THOMAS, (Newcastle

upon Tyne East, Labour Co-operative), HARRY COWANS (Newcastle Central Labour), BERNARD CONLAN (head East, Labour), TED GARRETT (West Labour), ARTHUR BLENKINSOP (Shields, Labour), GILES RADICE (Chester-le-Street, Labour), ERNIE FERNYHOUGH (Row, Labour), GORDON BAGIER (Sunderland, Labour), FREDERICK WILLEY (Sunderland North, Labour), DAVID WATKINS (Consett, Labour), IAN WRIGGLESWORTH (Ward, Co-operative), ROBERT WOOF (Blaydon, Labour), RON LEWIS (Carlisle, Labour), GEORGE GRANT (North East, Morpeth, Labour), the Northern Grimsby Labour MPs, House of Commons.

The industry's record in export markets, the skill and dedication of its workforce, and the responsible approach adopted by their trade union representatives, reinforce the conclusions of the CPRS:

"On grounds of the country's present industrial strategy, the need to sustain employment and the needs of the balance of payments there is a strong case for maintaining in the United Kingdom a power plant manufacturing industry which can both supply the home market and compete successfully overseas."

While the more complex recommendations in the CPRS report will require further discussion, it would be unrealistic to expect the mergers and other rationalisation measures which the report advocates to be agreed in detail before the Drax order is placed.

The need for Drax is urgent.

Yours faithfully,

MIKE THOMAS, (Newcastle

Differences in US air fares

From Mr H. R. H. McCulloch

Sir, My I, an academic, of figures, comment up explanation of your com- dem Mr L. H. Langley

ary 14) that lower air fare in Europe are "of course to greater competition?

Last year I travelled thousands of miles in class by United States Airlines and noted the following details: Air California monopoly on the route San Francisco to South Tahoe (230 miles) and a round-trip fare of \$3

route from San Francisco Reno (250 miles) is set about a dozen charging a fare of \$65 trip. One may fly from San Francisco to Los Angeles (500 miles) with numerous stops, each charging about \$60. The bus from San Francisco Las Vegas (500 miles) \$108 return on about dozen airlines.

Why do some of these seem to be much better gains than others? Is cause, as Mr Langley says, his curiously phrased, there is more competition these routes? No, the two routes (San Francisco Tahoe and San Francisco Angeles) are intra-state whilst the other are inter-state. The fares on intra-state routes are federally controlled and there is no price control, regardless of the airlines serving those. Mr Langley's assertive competition on most key is ludicrous.

I am fed up with the term "academic" as an insult synonymous with incompetence. The slight is particularly irksome coming a person implicitly claiming to be either knows or misrepresents.

DAVID EMANUEL, Visiting Assistant Professor Faculty of Commerce, University of Western Ontario, 4575 West 7th Avenue, Vancouver V6R 1X2, British Columbia, Canada. January 18.

Buoyant Dunford & Elliott

Message to the shareholders of

Dunford & Elliott from the Chairman, Frank Welsh

Reject J.F.B.'s Offers

Your Company is now performing extremely well, and profits so far are better than forecast. The substantial investment in new plant is now paying off handsomely. Our markets have come out of recession and are continuing to be strong.

The enhanced cash flow will increase shareholders' funds and be used to repay borrowings. Your Board is firmly convinced that your Company's prospects will be realised and will provide a sound base for future growth.

JFB's offers for your shares do not reflect the increased earnings. They will lead to lower income. On top of that, if you accepted, you would be faced with subscribing to JFB's intended rights issue.

The employees are opposed to the takeover by JFB which they consider could lead to considerable job losses. They believe that industrial relations would be jeopardised.

Do not throw away your rewards. You have suffered eighteen poor months. This year will be good—the first of many good years. These profits rightly belong to you and you should not surrender them to JFB.

You are strongly recommended by your Board and its financial advisers, Morgan Grenfell & Co. Limited and Grindlay Brandis Limited, to ignore completely the JFB offers for your shares. Your Directors do not intend to accept the JFB offers in respect of their own shares.

If you have already lodged an acceptance form and want advice on how to withdraw, please telephone Mr. Holdway at 01-588 4545.

Frank Welsh
Chairman

Dunford & Elliott Group

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

New fodder for pension funds

It's announcement by the Rail Pension Funds, who were contemplating an offer for Standard, again raises the whole question of the valuation of trust shares. All through last year's dissent and widening dispute, Standard's managers, Remnant, were claiming would take only one to set the sector to gain.

Roy of this situation is the fact that the price Pension Funds propose is now likely to be several points.

While the Pension propose to strip out the shares' preference and stock) at par in net asset value, they pose to buy in the prior at prices considerably par. They are, in fact, to have their cake and eat it.

There is the vexed issue of the contingent liability to capital gains tax and investment currency premium, and whether these should be stripped wholesale: they are to be incorporated into existing portfolio, selected with this in provides grounds for it: but, the question is, the board should really itself is whether the will be worth the candle. The RR Pension Funds now—and as Touche was arguing persuasively—there is very doubt that the costs in any privatization or in would be high to leave the residue forers on any such moveably lower than that the Pension Funds propose.

ates

ming margin

A pattern has evolved leaving banks' interest rates over the past two. As interest rates on the banks have re-differential between the and deposit rates, the gap in rural areas is now again

rates are down by a 13 per cent but deposit rates have been cut by 11 per cent. This practice good sense from the viewpoint since their are squeezed when rates widening the margin way of offsetting the decline.

However, it is a of how little the need to bid for increasing deposits under interest regime. The tax gathering season, hard upon the heads year-end interest and on payments, has for the year running turned a non-event in terms demand, which continues as ever. But the still causing problems. At the permitted 3 per rate, over six months bearing resources, rates had already grown 1 cent in November scheme came in. That back to about 6½ per December 8. But despite level of borrowing probably not come back either. Barclays reckons to be shown 6 per cent growth and could be typical. It unlikely it will be back



Lord Ryder, chairman of the National Enterprise Board: White Child plans upset by Guinness.

within limits for the February banking figures.

Beyond that it is hard to tell. The banks are not expecting any early pick up in loan demand and are, apparently, unworried at the prospect of exceeding the limit modestly so as to incur the first level of penalties. But on the present course the corset is not likely to be so much of a problem as to prompt rapid loan shedding between February and April. It does suggest, though, that the clearers could widen further the base/deposit rate margin if they cut rates again.

Gold IMF auction today

So far this year gold price movements have been unexciting, with the bullion trading in a fairly narrow range. Indeed, activity on the gold front has been fairly quiet since the last International Monetary Fund auction early last month, once it was seen that \$140 an ounce was proving a difficult barrier to break through.

The growing belief in a sustainable, if slow, world economic recovery, diminishing fears over the impact of Mr Carter as the new United States President and recently the positive welcome his refractory remarks have received, have kept gold speculators at bay while encouraging industrial demand.

There was a \$13 rise to \$134 an ounce at the close of trading in London yesterday, but even so, it is not expected that at today's auction the IMF will get the \$137 an ounce achieved at the last auction, though most observers expect another oversubscription.

In fact, stability of the gold price has also been helped by the market acclimatising to the auctions every six weeks. From March auctions will be held monthly, with the offering scaled down from 780,000 ounces to 525,000 ounces at each auction, which should further ease absorption.

White Child & Beney

A minority in the cold

Apart from further purchases by Guinness in the market yesterday, perhaps the chief development in the bid for White Child & Beney was a negative one. And that was the failure of the National Enterprise Board to give minority

shareholders the slightest indication of its plans following the Guinness approach.

True, Guinness has been forced into bidding for White Child to outmanoeuvre the NEE whose proposal to take a stake in the company would have diluted Guinness's stake to 35 per cent and made it well nigh impossible to ever consider returning for a full takeover attempt at some stage in the future.

But unless minority shareholders are given some inkling of the NEE's counter proposals to the Guinness move (if indeed it has any) they cannot possibly make up their minds on the Guinness bid.

Certainly, there is not much chance of the NEE proposals going through at next month's extraordinary general meeting of White Child with Guinness announcing its intention to vote against and the alternative of a full bid by the NEE would raise difficult political questions. It is difficult not to avoid the conclusion that the NEE could have been spared this ticklish situation if it had looked slightly farther than its nose.

Minority shareholders might like to question the wisdom of their board in creating this situation in the first place when in demands for cash to fund its future investment plans appears to have been subordinate to its desire to see off Guinness as a bidder always in the wings.

In the absence of any guidance from the NEE, shareholders may well—as they appeared to be doing yesterday—sell in the market which is of course just what Guinness wants. Guinness may be forced to offer a trifle more to win the day but if it fails and pulls out of White Child as it threatens to do, the shares will have only one way to go though the fall will probably not be as far as the 30p level Guinness was scaring shareholders with the day before yesterday.

All very unsatisfactory when White Child should have had no trouble at all in finding the £3m it wants practically anywhere outside the NEE.

Whitecroft

The income argument

The market took the view long ago that Hanson Trust was being opportunistic with its bid for Whitecroft, even if the offer of 123p a share in cash was over a third above the pre-bid market price.

Everybody knew the figures for the year would be good and the estimates from Whitecroft yesterday of a 57 per cent increase to 54.85p pre-tax were certainly that. But the increase played by Whitecroft was a 125 per cent increase in the dividend, which put the shares ahead by 3p to 139p.

On the proposed 14.6p gross dividend, Whitecroft yields a prospective 13.28 per cent for 15.12 per cent at the bid price, which has rather turned on its head the argument from Hanson that a better return could be obtained by accepting the offer and re-investing it in 21 per cent Consols.

Hanson is not much impressed by the earnings argument, claiming that it had anticipated results similar to those now estimated and made due allowance in the bid price. Nor is Hanson worried about the assets play—not tangible assets are 15p after allowing for a £60.200 write-down.

Hanson is going to have to pay attention to this income argument and it looks as though it will now have to pay more to succeed.

Business Diary: Building bloc • Sea of troubles

of a new pressure do for the professions CBI does for manufacturers, whose Business Diary's Ross as been following, took in yesterday.

Walker, the proponent of the ideas, is not to his campaign when he hands over to akin his presidency of the Incorporated Association of Surveyors.

With Parkin's back, continue his campaign and said yesterday that now confident that he nucleus of such an in 16 construction professionals bodies of which far expressed interest, has been one outright from the Royal Institute Chartered Surveyors.

Attempts in this field to have miscarried, and the char of Walker's member bodies of the alliance should recognize er's professional qualities.

He threw a lunch at the club yesterday attended by others, John Porter, of the Incorporated of Valuers and Auctioneers.

who is one of those r of an alliance along suggested by Walker, man of the ISVA's committee. This meets v morning and will discuss a grouping.

Now plans to draw it for the alliance, crows much of its sup-

er, and the IAAS ideas could be put on the table with those of other bodies, and a common approach hammered out.

One of the other guests yesterday was Sir Maurice Laing, chairman of John Laing Construction, honorary member of IAAS and founder-president of the CBI.

He said: "The professions in the construction industry must stand together to go and see that their view and importance is recognized because if they do not nobody else will. It is clear that today all that matters is strength."

secretary-general from his Copenhagen office.

The beefing-up of AWES,

until now little more than a talking shop, reflects increasing international pressures as AWES tries to counter Japanese inroads into the shrinking world shipbuilding market.

Still in bond

The slump in Rhodian bond prices as a result of the latest diplomatic impasse has caused a few professional fingers to be burnt. But the gamblers who make up the school in this extraordinary stock market backwater are a resilient bunch.

Wendy Dorfacher and Alford & Smithers, the only jobbers still to make a book in the stock-marketed prices down heavily yesterday and introduced highly defensive dealing ranges. But although business was fairly negligible, both firms said that cheap buyers probably just outnumbered the sellers.

Brown will coordinate at the SRNA probably for some time yet given the embarrassing delays to the Government's shipbuilding industry nationalization plans.

AWES will be based in London, although Kai Seng-Jensen, of the Danish Shipbuilders Association, will act as

Industrial strategy: 2. Drop forgings

Pressing home the case for modernization

Britain's drop forgings industry, a crucial supplier to many manufacturing sectors, particularly the car makers, is urgently in need of modern equipment worth at least £100m if it is to survive in a form large enough to cope with home and export demands.

It is among the important pieces of the country's industrial jigsaw whose development as a strong force to provide a solid base for engineering and other industries has been identified as a national strategic objective. Yet little progress has been made in persuading the Government to earmark the drop forgings for special treatment.

In some respects the industry has been compared to ferrous foundries, now receiving considerable help under their own state aid scheme, but as much of the cash needed in the forgings sector is directly connected with environmental issues and as Whitehall must observe the EEC ruling that "the polluter pays", specific assistance has been ruled out and the forgers have had to fall back on the more generalized accelerated projects scheme and its successor, the selective investments scheme.

Drop forging is a potentially dangerous, noisy, dirty and arduous occupation, and the picture of the United Kingdom establishments presented by the Nedco sponsored industry's sector working party report is not particularly令人印象深刻的. It is difficult to avoid the conclusion that the NEE could have been spared this ticklish situation if it had looked slightly farther than its nose.

Minority shareholders might like to question the wisdom of their board in creating this situation in the first place when in demands for cash to fund its future investment plans appears to have been subordinate to its desire to see off Guinness as a bidder always in the wings.

In the absence of any guidance from the NEE, shareholders may well—as they appeared to be doing yesterday—sell in the market which is of course just what Guinness wants. Guinness may be forced to offer a trifle more to win the day but if it fails and pulls out of White Child as it threatens to do, the shares will have only one way to go though the fall will probably not be as far as the 30p level Guinness was scaring shareholders with the day before yesterday.

All very unsatisfactory when White Child should have had no trouble at all in finding the £3m it wants practically anywhere outside the NEE.

The industry has been able to achieve a positive return on capital in the past but it has been insufficient to finance investment in technologically superior plant and in better insulated and ventilated buildings to meet pressure from what the report sees as "an increasingly discriminating workforce".

This has led to the call, so far unsuccessful, for additional state aid to enable companies to invest in new productive equipment and buildings, improve working conditions, develop the most efficient production and commercial

practices and attract and retain skilled labour.

Traditionally, the industry has also faced a highly cyclical pattern of ordering reflecting the production cycles of its customers. These include the motor industry, which takes up almost 70 per cent of the drop forging capacity, the aircraft, oil and other energy industries, mining and railways.

The industry is dominated by one of Britain's engineering giants, GKN, which operates eight forging plants and in 1975 accounted for 55 per cent of the industry's deliveries.

Continuing the series of occasional articles on important sectors of the United Kingdom manufacturing industry which are cooperating with the Government to reduce obstacles to growth and efficiency.

Series Total industry output in 1975 was 555,000 tonnes worth £244m.

The recession has forced the drop forgings to reduce capacity utilization to about 70 per cent, with some machines working full time and others standing idle. As long as the economic upturn is not too rapid, it appears that the spare capacity should be sufficient to cope with demand.

Twenty-eight per cent of the drop forgings' total labour force of 26,000 are skilled craftsmen, a higher proportion than many other industries, and the working party stressed the need for companies to pursue more active policies to recruit, train and retain labour.

The industry has been able to achieve a positive return on capital in the past but it has been insufficient to finance investment in technologically superior plant and in better insulated and ventilated buildings to meet pressure from what the report sees as "an increasingly discriminating workforce".

This has led to the call, so far unsuccessful, for additional state aid to enable companies to invest in new productive equipment and buildings, improve working conditions, develop the most efficient production and commercial

drop forgings.

In the long-term, the only way to attract the scarce skills required will be to improve dramatically the conditions in forging plants. Noise is perhaps the biggest problem and since the Control of Pollution Act came into force, drop forgings have faced growing pressure to reduce night and early morning work with the result that many are having difficulty running two shifts.

Edward Townsend

A 1,000 tonne hammer press forming hollow axle ends at the Darlaston plant of Garringtons, a company in the GKN Forgings group. GKN, which operates eight forging plants, accounted for 55 per cent of the industry's deliveries in 1975.

differentials in the charge for a 500cc Fiat and a 30-ton articulated truck or for high road and safe drivers?

Perhaps an accurate costing of the exercise will show that there are more efficient ways of raising a further £50m or so for the National Health Service. Motorists can only hope so, for the costs of running claims costs rising at a rate of more than 15 per cent a year.

Motor insurance has never been a licence to print money for the companies, although the more selective approach of Lloyd's underwriters to the market has enabled them to record profits in all but one of the past 30 years on their one-fifth of the private motorists' market. The main companies' underwriting profits of £12,700,000 in 1973 and £18,000,000 in 1974 stand against the 1971 loss of £25,500,000 and losses of £3m in 1972 and £4,600,000 in 1973, while they probably no more than broke even last year.

For a number of companies the extra computer time needed to incorporate levy billing of policyholders means rewriting their entire motor account programs. This would clearly be an unrealistically expensive business and one that the Government itself should be acutely aware of after its experience with the ill-fated motor licensing office in Swansea.

The companies point out a number of supplementary problems posed by the levy. What, for instance, happens if a motorist refuses to pay the new charge? Does he lose his insurance cover? Or does the company enter into a protracted correspondence with him, arguing the case for a charge? It does not itself believe to be sensible.

What happens about fleet owners? What of multi-car households? Should there be some time, may be expected to

follow General Accident's lead with increases this year of about 10 per cent.

While this picture of higher rates may be of no comfort to motorists, it does mean that the costs of motor cover are falling in real terms as the companies are now facing claims costs rising at a rate of more than 15 per cent a year.

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General Accident, the largest of the composite motor insurers with policies covering 1,500,000 vehicles, recently increased its private car rates by 12 per cent from February 1.

Guardian Royal Exchange and Eagle Star, rated second and third behind General Accident in the scale of the motor business with one million and 500,000 policies respectively, has pegged its rise to 5 per cent and is to let the rest of the market overtake in premium terms by 1978.

Phoenix, Commercial Union and Sun Alliance, all of which have held premiums steady for some time, may be expected to

Hickson & Welch (Holdings) Limited

Group's most successful year: 70% increase in profit

I am pleased to report that our group has had the most successful year since we became a public company in 1951. We reached a pre-tax profit of £7.87m; an achievement in which all concerned can be justly proud. This increase of profit of some 70% over last year is particularly noteworthy for our group of industries in which we operate. 1976 was our 25th year as a public company. Over these twenty-five years pre-tax profits have grown from £14,000 to £7.87m.

Messel has sent the game out to its clients and it should suit all tastes since our in and out bears can start at the top and invertebrates can start at the bottom, the winner being whoever gets to the end first. Or, more simply, players can start at the same place.

Snakes and ladders on the way include a drop from £185 to £150 on the announcement of further United States Treasury gold auctions while large scale industrial buying at £59 an ounce engendered by the £100 floor being broken puts bullion back to £120.

Nevertheless, judging by yesterday's trade there are still people around prepared to take a gamble at the new level. Foreign banks and a number of stockbrokers are reported to be among speculators involved, but the jobbers of course never divulge anything about their clients.

As a dealer at Wedd said yesterday: "Let's just say I haven't done any institutional business."

Nevertheless, judging by yesterday's trade there are still people around prepared to take a gamble at the new level. Foreign banks and a number of stockbrokers are reported to be among speculators involved, but the jobbers of course never divulge anything about their clients.

Even so it should be interesting to see what happens at the International Monetary Fund auction today because the game on square £135 indicates an advance to £150 or the IMF auction being oversubscribed. The bullion price closed in London last night at £134½ an ounce.

Good Financial Condition

During the year net overall borrowing by the group was reduced by £1.95m. to approximately £3.0m. Bank interest came down from £743,000 to £422,000. Thus

Shipbuilders despair as orders hit 10-year low

By Peter Hill

Industrial Correspondent

Britain's shipbuilding order book has sunk to its lowest level for 10 years, and faces serious contraction unless new orders can be secured in the next three to six months.

The desperate need for them was underlined yesterday by Mr Geoffrey Gibson, chairman of the now-disbanded shipbuilding industry economic development committee, against the background of the latest survey listed by the Shipbuilders and Repairers National Association.

In an open letter to management and union leaders Mr Gibson said: "The committee has emphasized the need for an immediate short-term policy, without prejudice to the development of one for the longer term."

"The industry's order book is smaller than it was, it is still shrinking, and it is unevenly distributed. There is a desperate need to win further new orders over the next three to six months."

The SRNA commented: "While the orders taken during 1976 showed an improvement on the extremely low figure for 1975, they are still far below what is required."

Indo-UK symposium

A symposium of Indo-British collaboration in engineering developments in third world countries is to be held in London today.

Hill Samuel Base Rate

Hill Samuel & Co Limited announce that with effect from Wednesday, January 26th, 1977, their Base Rate for lending will be decreased from 14 per cent to 13 per cent per annum.

Interest payable under the Bank's Demand Deposit Scheme on sums of £500 up to £100,000 will be at the rate of 11 per cent per annum. Interest rates for larger amounts will be quoted on application.

Hill Samuel & Co Limited
100 Wood Street
London EC2P 2AJ



Standard Chartered announces that with effect from Tuesday, January 25th the following annual rates will apply

Base rate.....13%
Deposit rate....9½%

Standard Chartered Bank Limited

CLYDESDALE BANK INTEREST RATES

Clydesdale Bank Limited announces that with effect from 26th January, 1977, its Base Rate for lending is being decreased from 14% to 13% per annum.

Barclays Bank Base Rate.

Barclays Bank Limited and Barclays Bank International Limited announce that with effect from the close of business on 25th January, 1977, their Base Rate was decreased from 14% to 13% per annum.

The basic interest rate for deposits was decreased by 1½% from 11% to 9½% per annum.

BARCLAYS

BARCLAYS

International

Reg. Office: 54 Lombard Street, EC3P 3AH
Reg. No. 48829 and 1026167.

Company pioneers £65,000 brain scanner using isotope technique

By Kenneth Owen
Technology Correspondent

A medical diagnostic machine similar to the X-ray scanner developed by EMI but which uses isotope emission instead of X-rays and is about one-quarter the price, is being demonstrated at the Royal Institution in London.

In combining the isotope emission technique with the "computerized axial tomography" or CAT method of scanning—which gives a detailed picture of a cross-sectional slice of the brain or other part of the body—the machine is claimed to be the first of its type.

It has been developed by J. & P. Engineering of Reading, Berkshire, a small private company best known for electronic instruments for use in hospitals, universities and research establishments. Its price is £65,000.

Computer programmes to

convert the detected measurements into the final picture have been written with the assistance of the Department of Medical Physics at Aberdeen University.

Advantages claimed for the CAT method of isotope scanning are that it can locate deep-seated pathological structures which would otherwise be obscured; it gives a view in a new dimension to help the surgeon or radiotherapist, and it gives additional diagnostic information because of the greater detail and precision of the resulting picture.

The J & P machine is known as the Tomoscanner. The patient lies on a couch and the twin detectors rotate around the part of the body being examined at six-degree intervals. Normally the scan will take from four to seven minutes to complete.

Computer programmes to

retrain UK workers

From Michael Hornsby

Bristol, Jan 25

Britain has been allocated £13.4 million units of account (£18m) in the third series of applications for grants from the European Community's social fund, approved by the European Commission for 1976. Total grants approved for all nine Community members in this third tranche amount to about £60m.

The funds are intended mainly for retraining workers in declining industries. In addition to the above sums, a commitment to provide £43m in aid for retraining schemes over the next two years has also been agreed. Britain's share will be £19m.

The third tranche of social fund grants certainly overstates Britain's share over 1976 as a whole, which cannot yet be precisely calculated. In 1975 however Britain's share was about 29 per cent and averaged about 25 per cent during the three previous years. The other two big beneficiaries are Italy and Ireland.

Among the poorer regions of Britain, Northern Ireland claims a large portion of social fund resources. Of interest in the

latest share-out is the provision of some £2m over the next three years for the retraining of 12,000 newspaper printers in Britain who face redundancy because of plans to introduce new technology.

This year will be important for the fund because its operation and purpose come up for review. The Commission is expected to submit proposals for the fund's reform by the end of February, and a final decision on them is due to be taken by the Council of Ministers acting for the Nine

Ministers by the beginning of May.

There is general agreement that procedures for releasing money from the fund need to be greatly accelerated. Complaints about delays have mounted. Britain, for example, had granted £40m approved in 1975, but had actually received only £3m of this by the end of last year.

The Commission may also

raise the ceiling on the share of the cost of retraining projects which can be met out of EEC funds from 50 per cent to 65 per cent. It is felt that the lower limit has seriously diminished the benefit to the Community's poorest regions derive from the fund.

Business appointments

Top changes at Ozalid Group board

Utrecht, Jan 25—Ozalid's largest trades union federation, the FNV, said it has drawn up plans for industrial action in the second half of next week or the following week.

Its decision follows the breakdown of industry by industry wage talks; but it cannot be put into effect until the federation has secured agreement among member unions and given the employers five days notice.

The country's second largest union federation, the CNTV, said it is also preparing action. The two federations would carry out any action independently although they were working together in the building sector.

Wage negotiations at Philips Gloeilampenfabrieken NV and Royal Dutch/Shell broke down yesterday over disagreement about whether the indexation of wages to prices should continue.

This point was the cause of the breakdown in national wage talks last November and subsequent industry by industry talks.—Reuter.



Mr K. Trickett (left) managing director of Compeda and Mr R. Rowntree, new managing director of Phonatas.

Mr Keith Trickett has been appointed managing director of Compeda, the new subsidiary of the National Research Development Corporation.

Mr Ridge Rowntree has become managing director of Phonatas. He takes over from Mr Basil Becker, chairman of the group.

Mr J. D. A. Jones has become chairman of Baker Perkins, Australia, in March. Mr D. A. Jones is to be managing director and Mr K. P. Corcoran, deputy managing director.

Mr J. D. A. Jones has become chairman and managing director of the company, is returning to the United Kingdom.

Mr J. J. Barnard, Mr D. G. Greenwood, Mr C. W. Joyce and Mr I. Smith join the board.

Mr Michael Younger has been made a vice-president of Arthur D. Little International.

Mr J. C. Kelly has become a director of Thompson Graham Insurance Services. Mr M. T. Emmett and Mr M. S. Hill are to become directors of Thompson Graham Insurance Services. Mr M. F. Baird has joined the board of Thompson Graham (Underwriting Management).

Mr A. G. G. joins the board of Thomas Walker.

Mr Patrick Griffith chairman of Turner & Newall, has been elected vice-chairman of the British Road Federation.

Mr R. W. Freeman has been made managing director designate of Containerway and Roadferry.

He will succeed Mr R. G. Davies who retires later in the year.

Mr E. J. Freeman, Mr R. A. Smith has joined the board of Beaver Group. Mr P. W. Merz has retired.

Mr David Hurley, the managing director of Visionhire, has been made chairman of the Council of the National Television Rental Association. But succeeds Mr Sidney Parker, managing director of Thornt TV Rentals.

Mr B. R. Bensly, managing director of Mirlees Blackstone becomes chairman of the British Internal Combustion Engine Manufacturers' Association.

FINANCIAL NEWS

Electricals and toys the powers in Cowan

By Richard Allen

Cowan de Groot, the toys and electricals wholesaling group, reports that sales are still buoyant after an interim profits improvement of 29 per cent.

In the six months to October 31 pre-tax profits reached £719,000 against £556,000 on a turnover 25 per cent ahead at £11.7m. The interim dividend goes up from 77p gross to 85p. Last year's total was 238p.

Mr E. A. de Groot, chairman, says that in view of the most encouraging upturn in interim profits the group is confidently anticipating an excellent year.

The toy and giftware division which accounts for around 40 per cent of total sales has followed up an excellent 1975 Christmas by taking record orders at the Harrogate Toy Fair. Benefits from this will continue well into the 1977/78 financial year.

The other major division, electricals and hardware, has maintained steady progress and the recent upsurge in consumer spending is expected to provide added stimulus, particularly in electricals.

Recent acquisitions Richard Kelly and Electrical Wholesalers of Dublin have made significant contributions while W. F. Horwood, the hardware wholesaler taken over in December, should contribute around £200,000 to year-end profits.

Supply difficulties in the Russia shop division have now been overcome and the group is trading satisfactorily. The machinery division has also achieved good results.

Hestair extends offer for S & J

Hestair is extending its offer for Spear & Jackson until February 3. But it is not raising three-for-two terms, despite acceptances of only 7.5 per cent. Hestair now holds 27.88 per cent.

Hestair's share dropped 3p to 8p on the news, valuing its offer at 120p a share. Spear & Jackson's market price was 116p, unchanged on the day.

Spear & Jackson still tells shareholders to reject the bid.

ML's 60 pc setback after work-to-rule

The board of M. L. Holdings, the Slough-based engineering

Lincroft now ready to resume climb

In a tough year to September 30 for textiles Lincroft Kilgour, the menswear maker and textiles group all but held its own.

Indeed sales rose a bit from £9.44m to £9.85m, but pre-tax profits slipped from £769,408 to £764,559. Luckily tax fell more sharply so net profits climbed from £148,198 to £504,347.

The result was earnings a share of 10.37p against 8.58p and a final of 1.91p net takes up the total dividend by the maximum from 2.82p to 3.10p, or 1.77p gross.

The directors think that exchange rate swings are here to stay, and their impact now falls directly on profits, and not as before on capital reserves and extraordinary items.

Lincroft does around two-thirds of business overseas, including the Far East, and the new exchange rate treatment means that the 1975 pre-tax profit was £726,961 on the old basis against the new style £769,408.

The group says that last year was difficult but Mr David Holland, finance director, says that business is getting better though it is held back by slow world economic recovery. Profits in the first six months were only £252,000.

The group is at once a Savile Row tailor selling suits at around £300 a piece, a suitmaker for mail order houses such as Littlewoods, and an exporter of high quality cloth.

Mr Holland speculates that one day Lincroft could find itself part of another group.

Houchein going strong after 36 pc rise

Another bumper year is under way at Houchein, the maker of ground equipment for the electrical servicing and starting of aircraft.

Turnover in the six months to October 31 rose 17 per cent to £2.2m, and pre-tax profits by 36 per cent to £424,000.

The board says that the group's sales policy continues to bring satisfactory results. There is no loss of impetus overseas. In spite of economic uncertainty, the board is confident.

In the whole of 1975-76 pre-tax profits soared 159 per cent to a record £928,000.

Farm co-op may bid £2 for Carr's Milling

The rise in the share price of Carr's Milling Industries 30p to 37p in five working days has prompted West Clydesdale Farmers to report that "might or might not" is an offer for Carr's at 45s a share. It would value at £2.2m.

WCF advised by S. G. burg, the largest agric cooperative in the United Kingdom, expects normal trading results. The whole of 1975-76 saw profits rise from £507,000 to a record £582,000.

The group is charging the losses incurred against current profit.

Apart from this the board expects normal trading results. The whole of 1975-76 saw profits rise from £507,000 to a record £582,000.

Carr's is based in Carlisle.

It comes from animal feed.

In the six months to August 28, pre-tax profit from £693,000 to a record £737,000 after a season in profits in the second year.

The bakeries division failed to provide an adequate return.

In his annual report December, Mr Ian Carr, chairman, said that Carr's had had a "year well". He said group growth depended on its ability to adapt to changes in the industries it serves.

In the whole of 1975-76 pre-tax profits soared 159 per cent to a record £928,000.

National Westminster Bank

Rate changes

National Westminster Bank

announces that for balances in its books as from and including

Wednesday, 26th January, 1977

its Base Rate for lending is reduced from 14% to 13% per annum

and its Deposit Rate on all amounts lodged, subject to seven days' notice of withdrawal, is 9½% per annum.

Saving Accounts will now attract interest at 9½% per annum.

All other rates remain unchanged

Lloyds Bank Base Rate

Lloyds Bank announces that with effect from Wednesday, January 26th, 1977, its Base Rate for lending is reduced to 13%.

The rate of interest on 7-day notice Deposit

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Markets

MLR hopes check a retreat

leaving banks' decision to keep base rates, though it put some temporary respite after a night of light profit-taking.

At 11 am and 2 pm, the market was up on more than six pence from a loss of 24. Thereafter, went easier on a late afternoon and by the time the market stood just 0.1. 577.

The base rate hurdle over lay, equity dealers, looking for another MLR. Friday with a significant gain of one-half of a point per cent.

The days of the week have seen the opinion that would take a few days to dilute their recent gains. Because of their availability, the unemployment figures made little impact on the market, which had been firm on Monday, continued to move under the influence of the banks' base rates

worse was Midland with a rise to 278p, while elsewhere the apparent breakdown of the Rhodesia talks left Standard Chartered 10p lower at 315p.

In electricals, GEC responded to a favourable mention and gained 2p to 177p, while others to go ahead were Hoover 5p to 240p, International Components 2p to 163p and Ever Ready 1p to 136p. But possible repercussions from the Drax power station failure had Rayrole Parsons 5p off at 130p after a "low" of 126p, while Decca was also weak at 250p, down by 5p.

Bid and speculative stocks continued to abound. Whitecroft 8p healthier at 139p after the board's rejection of the Hanson terms and a bullish profit forecast. Carr's Milling put on 7p to 43p on news of possible terms worth 45p from West Cumberland Farmers and Standard Trust jumped 9p to 124p on an approach from the ER pension fund.

After the Guinness move, White Child Beney went ahead another 5p to 66p Spear & Jackson were unchanged at 116p after news of low acceptances and an extension of the terms from Nestle, lower by 3p to 80p.

But hoping for further moves by Johnson Firth Brown, up a penny to 50p, the biggest percentage rise was recorded by Dufrost & Elliott, which jumped 9p to 63p in the "A" shares. In addition, there was a bullish statement from the Dunford board.

Other speculative spots were: Wilkinson Match, 7p to 58p, Norwest, 2p to 62p, Dolan Packaging, 6p to 95p, A. J. Mills, 3p to 50p, and on fresh bid talk, FMC, which rose a penny to 74p.

Demand in a thin market put Robert McRorie 9p to the good at 17p. Minority terms from Lourho's firmness in Central Line Securities at 32p, mentioned here. Lourho itself, in front of figures, eased a penny to close at 76p.

Among the "blue chips",

there were generally small losses at the end of the day.

At the extreme ends of the range were Glaxo, up 5p to 440p and Unilever, which fell 8p to 426p. Racial eased 2p to 265p on the rival suitor emerging for Milgo.

Back in financials, properties were helped by interest rate considerations and there was strength from Britishers, up 5p to 180p, Barclays, Hamer, 5p to 136p. But possible repercussions from the Drax power station failure had Rayrole Parsons 5p off at 130p after a "low" of 126p, while Decca was also weak at 250p, down by 5p.

Maples' shares have risen 4p to 91p in little more than a week on speculation that it has fully let its Tottenham Court Road, London, site. This done, the site, once said to be worth £25m, will be sold to repay borrowings.

Signs of firmness in shippings with Reardon "A" gaining 2p to 80p, British & Commonwealth, 2p to 232p, and Furness Witte, 2p to 212p. The pick of oils was BP, with a rise of 6p to 806p and Ultramar, which rose 4p to 140p.

Gold shares were weak behind the dollar premium with losses of up to 50p. The Rhodesia situation did not help RTZ, off 7p to 183p, and De Beers, 10p to 190p.

Equity turnover on January 24 was £6.04m (£15,432 bargains).

Active stocks yesterday, according to Exchange Telegraph,

were: ICL, BP, Shell, BAT, Dif, GKN, RAZ, Racal, BAT Ind, Beecham, Burnham, GEC, Glaxo, Gus "A", Commercial Union, Hawker Siddeley, Rayrole Parsons, Wilkinson Match, FMC, International Computers, Thorn "A", Whitecroft and Dunford & Elliott.

Other speculative spots were: Wilkinson Match, 7p to 58p, Norwest, 2p to 62p, Dolan Packaging, 6p to 95p, A. J. Mills, 3p to 50p, and on fresh bid talk, FMC, which rose a penny to 74p.

Dividends in a thin market put Robert McRorie 9p to the good at 17p. Minority terms from Lourho's firmness in Central Line Securities at 32p, mentioned here. Lourho itself, in front of figures, eased a penny to close at 76p.

Among the "blue chips",

Company	Ord (and value)	Year ago	Pay	Year's total	Prev year
Abbott Laboratories (25p) Fin	1.00	1.00	1.00	3.25	1.25
Central Landlines (10p) Int	1.3	1.26	1.00	1.25	1.25
Comet de Groot (10p) Int	0.5	0.5	0.5	1.5	1.5
Free State Devs Int	4*	4*	—	—	9*
Hales Properties (25p)	0.73	0.73	10.3	—	2.01
Hamer Trust (25p) Int	0.5	0.46	7.3	—	1.5
Henderson-Kent (20p) Int	1.0	0.8	26.2	—	1.98
Levi (20p) Int	1.00	1.00	28.2	2.4	2.01
Lloyd's Kingdom (10p) Int	1.91	1.91	1.50	—	2.02
M. I. Holdings (25p) Int	1.01	1.01	—	—	2.02
Scottish Eng (20p) Int	0.6	0.6	0.3	11/3	—

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on a per share basis. Where in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis, the established gross multiply the net dividend by 1.54. * Adjusted for scrip. + Cents a share.

and raising \$20m in year Eurobond issue

republic of Iceland is \$20m by means of a Eurobond issue through national underwriting managed by First Europe), Credit Suisse Veld, Hambros Bankers, Hanover, and sche Landesbank Giro present market condi-

TOMARKETS

he annual interest expected to be 9 per cent bonds mature on 15, 1987, and are not due before 1981. The sinking fund starts in 1985 at 6.75 per cent maturity and resulting range life of 8.49 years. On will be made to bonds in Luxembourg, except that the bonds offered on February 4.

Turnover for year to April, 1976 fell from \$1m to \$154m. Pre-tax profit £5,000 (loss £32,000). Chairman looks forward to a more successful 1976-77.

The State of Israel has filed with the Securities Exchange Commission \$350m in 20-year \$1 per cent dollar bonds to be sold through the Development Corp. for Israel. The Israeli Government will use the proceeds for investment in the country's economic sectors, including housing, community facilities and industry.

ANGLO AMERICAN CORPORATION GROUP Transvaal Gold Mining Companies

DECLARATION OF DIVIDENDS

Ver to the dividend notice advertised in the press on the 10th of 1976, the conversion rate applicable to payments in United currency in respect of the undifferentiated dividend to share, subject to the discretion of the Directors, £1.00 per share, effective rate of South African non-resident shareholders 14.7%.

All the dividends concerned are as follows:

of Company (each of which is incorporated in the Republic of South Africa)

Rate of dividend per share (SA currency)

UK currency equivalent per share

South African Exploration and Mining Company Limited

41 60 cents 40.07210p

on Deep Levels Limited

30 45 cents 30.054070p

For and on behalf of ANGLO AMERICAN CORPORATION OF SOUTH AFRICA LTD London Secretaries J. C. Greensmith

Office: c/o Vredsel, ECIP 1A/L, The United Kingdom Transfer Secretaries: Consolidated Limited, P.O. Box 102, Park Street, Ashford, Kent TN24 8EQ, U.K., 1977.

DE BEERS CONSOLIDATED MINES LIMITED (Incorporated in the Republic of South Africa)

NOTICE TO THE HOLDERS OF PREFERENCE SHARES

Ver to the dividend notice advertised in the Press on the 24th of 1976, the conversion rate applicable to payments in United currency in respect of the dividends listed hereunder, is 88.00%

effective rate of South African Non-Resident Shareholders Tax is 14.7%.

For and on behalf of ANGLO AMERICAN CORPORATION OF SOUTH AFRICA LTD London Secretaries J. C. Greensmith

Office: Vredsel, ECIP 1A/L, The United Kingdom Transfer Secretaries: Consolidated Limited, P.O. Box 102, Park Street, Ashford, Kent TN24 8EQ, U.K., 1977.

Weeks' one-for-one rights

Agricultural equipment group Weeks Associates embellishes a one-for-one rights issue to raise about £351,000 with a big advance in profits.

The issue is of 3.72m shares at 10p, a discount of around 5p on the share price. The board estimates pre-tax profit for the year to January 23 at a minimum £460,000 compared with £240,000.

It also forecasts a second interim dividend on the existing capital of 0.7583p instead of a final, making a total of 1.16p, the maximum. The Treasury has agreed to a total dividend of 1.3p for the year to January 23, 1978, on the enlarged equity.

Undertakings to subscribe 2.25m shares have been received from existing holders and the balance of 1.47m is being underwritten.

The money will be used to reduce debts, and strengthen the balance-sheet for expansion.

BICC goes into auto-mining

For around £2.36m in shares, cables group BICC has bought Derby, Automation Consultants, and Transmunt. This projected diversification move into auto-mining was first announced two months ago.

The two are leading United Kingdom specialists in the design and manufacture of control, automation, and communications equipment for use in coalmines.

They are privately owned and based at Burton-on-Trent. They will become part of BICC Industrial Products.

The deals needed £1.7m of Capital and County Laundries from £1.89m to £1.93m in the year to September 25. But down went pre-tax profits from a record £251,000 to £105,000.

So there should be a "substantial increase" in this year's profits but not to those of 1975 until trade picks up.

Local authorities

Up went the turnover of Capital and County Laundries from £1.89m to £1.93m in the year to September 25. But down went pre-tax profits from a record £251,000 to £105,000.

So there should be a "substantial increase" in this year's profits but not to those of 1975 until trade picks up.

Doubled interim payment from SEET

Doubling the gross interim

payment to 9.2p. Scottish, English and European Textiles reports that the figures for the half-year to October 31 were as hoped for.

Turnover went up by 36.1 per cent to £4.95m, and pre-tax profits by 85.7 per cent to £325,000. Second-half trading has started well and prospects are "encouraging". Pre-tax profits for the year to April 30, 1976, were a record £420,000.

Tricentrol's sale

Tricentrol has completed the agreed sale of its 10 per cent interest in Blocks 15/21 and 20/30 in the United Kingdom sector of the North Sea. The buyers, divided equally, are

Geneva) for 1976 reached 6.25m Swiss francs (about £1.4m), against 5.65m francs in 1975. Board proposes dividend totalling 2.5m francs (unchanged from last year) on cap of 5m francs.

STANDARD OIL (IND)

Sales for the final quarter rose from \$2.90m to \$3.40m but profits eased from \$178.5m to \$168.9m. For year profits went up from \$78.7m to \$89.3m, on sales \$12.70m against \$11.10m.

EGCO IRISH LOAN

The Export Credit Department has guaranteed a £15.6 million loan to ECGO, an Irish consortium Limited acting for National Westminster Bank has made available to NIEIR, Irish Republic. The loan will help finance a £19.5 million Ammonia-Urea contract which NIEIR have awarded jointly to Kellogg International Corporation and Kellogg Construction Limited.

HAMBRO TRUST

Estimated income available for distribution for half-year to December 31 last, after expenses, tax and payment of half-year's preference dividend, £79,500 (£57,000). Gross interim up from 70p to 77p.

HARVEYS OF BRISTOL

Harveys of Bristol (subsidiary of Allied Breweries) reported a profit up £4.2m to £17.6m for year to September 25 last. Pre-tax profits rose from £5.71m to £8.66m.

LEDS INDY TRUST

Gross revenue of Leds Investment Trust up from £213,462 to £228,520 for 1976. Net profit (£1,400,000) chairman reported that sides up in the current year were 3.7 per cent higher than the same period last year. LMT should this year see a "definite increase" in profits.

LONDON & MANCHESTER

London & Manchester Assurance has bought a further 8,500 ord in United States and General Trust Corp. Interest now 11.9% per cent.

CAPLAN PROFILE

With the demand for office furniture appearing to be gathering momentum, 1977 should be a year of growth in both turnover and profit.

IMPEL KNIFE-RICHARDS

Necessary formal consents under the Exchange Control Act, 1947, have been granted in respect of the acquisition by Imperial Knife & Richards of Sheffield's offer on behalf of Imperial Knife for the ordinary of Richards unconditional.

B. H. SOUTH

Board reports that, for 1977, the first half will produce a net loss. Performance in the second half to June, 1977, should improve and bring the group to break-even position for year. B. H. South should be able to resume dividends from the September, 1977, declaration.

GUERAILLER ZURMONT

Net profit of Guerailier-Zurmont Bank A.G. (Zurich and

momentum of new lending. The number of new loans made rose from 98,700 to 108,600.

Total assets at the year-end showed an increase from £37.70m to £44.36m, a growth of 17.4 per cent.

Shareholders' and depositors' balances moved up from £25.50m to £34.9

Stock Exchange Prices

Early losses recouped

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Jan 17. Dealings End, Jan 28. § Contango Day, Jan 31. Settlement Day, Feb 8
§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

MISR FINE SPINNING AND WEAVING COMPANY

KAFR EL DAWAR EGYPT

SPINNING EXPANSION
PROJECT*Prequalification of Suppliers*

1. Misr Fine Spinning and Weaving Co., Kafr el Dawar (KED) through the General Organization for Industrialization (COFI) announces that a major expansion in spinning is planned. The project is designed to increase the capacity of spinning on KED by about 6,000 tons (six thousand tons) per annum of polyester cotton and 100% cotton yarn.

The items required for expansion will include spinning equipment from blow room up to twisting electric gassing machines as well as necessary accessories and auxiliary testing laboratories and material handling also necessary electrical equipment for both spinning and weaving new mills.

2. Misr Fine Spinning and Weaving Company—Kafr el Dawar has received a loan from the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development in various currencies equivalent to KD10,000,000 toward the cost of Kafr el Dawar Textile Project and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to payments under the contract(s) for which this invitation to prequalify is issued.

3. Interested vendors are required to indicate the items for which they would like to receive invitations to bid if they are accepted as qualified suppliers.

Suppliers interested in bidding on equipment and materials for this expansion project may apply for prequalification by writing to the following address:

MISR FINE SPINNING AND WEAVING CO.,
KAFR EL DAWAR—EGYPT

Applications should be received not later than 28 February, 1977.

4. Qualified bidders will subsequently be asked to submit their quotations as well as technical catalogue and other supporting information describing general performance details and warranties (in English) on the basis of specification which will be furnished by the advertisers who will select the lowest evaluated bids.

Principal factors which will be considered in evaluating subsequent bids from invited suppliers who have been prequalified on the basis of information submitted pursuant to this announcement will include: price, quality, operating performance maintenance and installation cost of freight delivery time performance guarantee compliance with purchase specification, spare parts requirements payment terms vendors specific experience.

Investment and Finance

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICES

In the HIGH COURT of JUSTICE Chancery

Companies Court 004119 of 1976

Winding Up Petition

In the Matter of STOKE ROCEPORD FILLING ST

and in the Matter of the Company Act 1948.

Notice is hereby given that a PETITION for the

WIND UP of the above-named Company by the High

Court was filed on the 10th day of December 1976 in

to the said Court by Conoco Limited, whose registered

address is at Park House, 116 Park Street, London W1Y

And that the said Petition is directed to be heard

the Court sitting at the Royal Courts of Justice,

London WC2A 2LL, on the 7th day of February 1977

any creditor or contributary of the said Company d

to support or oppose the making of an Order on t

Petitioner may appear at the time of hearing as per

his Counsel for that purpose; and a copy of the

will be furnished by the undersigned to any cred

itor or contributary of the said Company requiring such c

payment of the regulated charge for the same

F. PURDY, Solicitor for the Petitioner, 200 Great

Street, London SE1 4XP

NOTE.—Any person who intends to appear on the

of the said Petition must serve on or send by post

above named, notice in writing of his intention so

the name and address of the firm, or, if a firm, the name and address of the firm, as

signed by the person or firm, or his or their s

(if any), and must be served, if posted, must be

post in sufficient time to reach the above named in

than four o'clock in the afternoon of the (c) 4th

February 1977.

In the HIGH COURT of JUSTICE Chancery

Companies Court 004119 of 1976

Winding Up Petition

In the Matter of MOTOR STOP Limited and In the

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signed by the person or firm, or his or their s

(if any), and must be served, if posted, must be

post in sufficient time to reach the above named in

than four o'clock in the afternoon of the 4th

February 1977.

In the HIGH COURT of JUSTICE Chancery

Companies Court 004119 of 1976

Winding Up Petition

In the Matter of GREENWICH CORPORATION LTD

1976/78

Perpetual Global Bank (London and Intern

national) Limited, Registration

Department, Finsbury Circus, London EC2M 7AY, h

give notice that in order to prevent

the loss of the above Stock will be

BALANCES of the several

Stock in the above Stock will be

the 21st February, 1977 and there

will be transferred Ex-Div.

D. A. T

N.B. All debts due to be

In the HIGH COURT of JUSTICE Chancery

Companies Court 004119 of 1976

WIND UP PETITION

Re: HENRY PEARL

UNKNOWN OF 1

SW1. (Under Receiving O

1st November 1976)

at 1.30 o'clock in the

at the Royal Courts of Justice

Mars Building, Royal

Public Examining

JULY 1977 at 11 o'clock

Building, Royal Courts

Strand, London.

JAMES J

OFFICIAL

N.B. All debts due to be

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Companies Court 004119 of 1976

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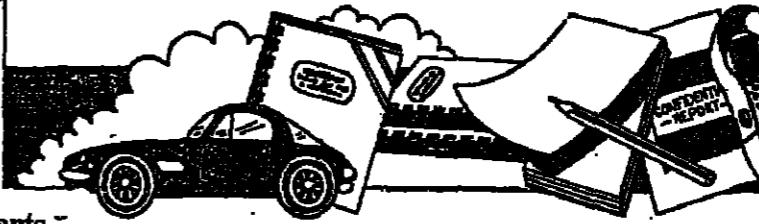
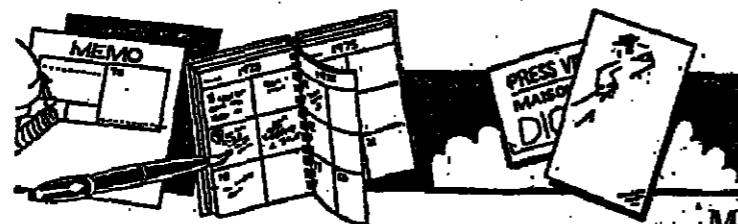
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"Mine eyes shall be upon the
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may dwell with me"—Psalm
101: 6

BIRTHS

ARMAND SMITH.—On 24th Jan-
uary to Win and Nick—son
of Mr Francis and Mrs. SMITH.

AWDREY.—Born January 24th, at
Gateshead Hospital, Sunderland, to
John and Margaret (née Tunbridge).

BRUNNIE.—On January 24th at
Northwick Park Hospital, in Gt
Ormond St., London, to John and
Gloria (née Snarey).

CLEA.—Born January 24th, son of
Stephen and Clea (née Simon).

FRANCIS KEEVES.—January 22nd, at
the John Radcliffe Hospital, in
Oxford, to John and Barbara (née
Fitzgerald) Keeves and Anthony (son
David).

GEOFF.—On January 25th to
Helen (née Charlton).

GREGORY.—Born January 25th at
Plymouth to Patricia (née Whinney)
and Bill (Graham) Simon. Son, Simon.

HAROLD.—Born January 25th, to
James and Margaret (née Bar-
ber) Hodge.

MALLINSON.—On Jan. 25th at
Queen Mary's, Roehampton, to
John and Margaret (née) Mallinson.

MILES.—Born 25th January to
Stuart (née Paddington) and Luigi
daughter, Annabel.

PYLE.—On Jan. 25th at Cannock
Hospital, to John (née) Pyle and
Wright and Dick (née) Wright, step-
brother John (Philip), a brother

and son of Mr and Mrs. Pyle.

ST JOHN BROOKS.—On 17th
January at St. Asaphs Hill, N.W. 11
daughter, Jessica.

TICK.—Born January 24th at
St. George's, St. George's Hospital,

WATTS.—On 1st January 1977,
to Anneke (née King) and
Nicholas—son Nicholas Alexander.

WOOD.—On 24th Jan., at Birming-
ham, to Michael (née Newman) and
Simon—son Matthew, a brother
for Timothy and James.

MARRIAGES

CLYMO : FLOWER.—On Jan. 22,
1977, at St. Giles, Thurstaston, to
James and Margaret (née Bar-
ber) Clymo.

COLDEN WEDDING.—

WINTER WEDDING.—On Jan. 26,
1977, in Palm Beach, Florida,
to Edgar (née) and Vicki (née)
Vorzimmer, son of Charles
present address 12 Upper Phil-
lips Gardens, London.

DEATHS

—ACTON.—On January 22nd, at Tor-
Law Hospital, Major-General

John (John) Acton, DSO, MC, DSC.

LAUREL.—Major-General

John (John) Laurel.

MAITLAND.—On January 22nd, at
the Royal Free Hospital, London, to
John (John) Maitland.

MCNAUL.—On January 22nd, at
the Royal Free Hospital, London, to
John (John) McNaul.

MONK.—On January 22nd, at
the Royal Free Hospital, London, to
John (John) Monk.

NEIL.—On January 22nd, at
the Royal Free Hospital, London, to
John (John) Neil.

PEPPER.—On January 22nd, at
the Royal Free Hospital, London, to
John (John) Pepper.

ROBERT.—On January 22nd, at
the Royal Free Hospital, London, to
John (John) Robert.

THOMAS.—On January 22nd, at
the Royal Free Hospital, London, to
John (John) Thomas.

WHITE.—On January 22nd, at
the Royal Free Hospital, London, to
John (John) White.

WILSON.—On January 22nd, at
the Royal Free Hospital, London, to
John (John) Wilson.

WILLIAMS.—On January 22nd, at
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